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# THE TIMES

No. 65,158 SATURDAY JANUARY 7 1995

## 'Written evidence only' at Parkhurst

### Staff accused of obstructing jail inquiry

BY RICHARD FORD, STEWART TENDLER AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE head of the prison service last night accused the Prison Officers' Association of obstructing the internal inquiry into the escape of three dangerous men from Parkhurst top security jail.

Derek Lewis, the director general of the prison service, further strained relations between prison service managers and the union with a statement issued after a visit to the Isle of Wight prison. He claimed that he was shocked to learn that the National Executive of the POA had instructed officers at Parkhurst not to co-operate fully with the inquiry headed by Sir Richard Tilt, director of security.

In a statement Mr Lewis said: "Given the allegations made by the POA in recent days, and the apparent concern they have expressed about security, I would have expected them to co-operate fully."

He said Mr Tilt had so far not received any response to his urgent request for details of the various allegations they have made. Mr Lewis, who met John Marriott, the governor, while at the jail, added: "I am determined that this action by the POA will not obstruct the inquiry and that the full facts will be established."

He said that once Mr Tilt had completed his inquiry, there would be an independent assessment of events at the jail by Sir John Learmount, who is to carry out a full



Lewis: "I expect prison staff to co-operate"

strained for some time. Time and again the Home Office and the Prison Service have attacked the POA as one of the last bastions of old-fashioned trade union power. The two sides have been locked in a long battle over Government attempts to reform and end POA restrictive working practices.

The latest row erupted amid confusion within the police and prison service over the accuracy of the pictures and description of one of the escaped men, Keith Rose.

Yesterday Devon and Cornwall police issued a 1989 picture of Rose saying they were disappointed to discover the picture released by the prison service was not a good likeness. The prison service picture showed the murderer with a long unkempt beard. Hampshire police said yesterday they had checked again and been told that Rose was bearded when he fled but it had been well trimmed and nothing like the picture.

As officers continued to search boats and buildings on the Isle of Wight for the men, armed police were monitoring the addresses of 15 people named on a hit list which police discovered on a computer in Rose's cell.

They include his wife Wendy, Mr Justice Ognall, his trial judge, Neil Butterfield, the prosecuting QC, the two policemen in charge of the investigation and the families of all his victims. Many of the potential targets have been given sophisticated protection devices.

Alan Street, Assistant Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall police, said: "We are taking certain precautions to ensure the safety of anyone whom Rose has made threats against in the past. For the time being, there will be police officers permanently armed and wearing their firearms openly."

The inquiry into the escape will want to discover how six sets of plans of the prison were found in a bin bag by a man renovating a house in Dorset last year. But police said that other detailed plans of B and G wings found by a student in Hampshire early on Wednesday morning were unconnected with the escape.

It will also want to find out whether Matthew Williams used his work in building an 8ft sculpture as a cover to construct the parts of a 25ft ladder used in the escape.

Prison sources confirmed yesterday that the internal security fence was not alarmed in spite of requests over a number of years by the governor. It is understood that no warning was given to the governor by prison officers in the four days before the escape that one of the men was acting suspiciously.

## Artist prisoner gave hint of escape plan

BY OUR HOME CORRESPONDENT

ONE of three men on the run from Parkhurst fled from the jail only days before an art exhibition of his work was due to open.

Matthew Williams made a telephone call three hours before breaching out to the governor and said he might not be around for a while.

Williams phoned Philip Cundall and said he was glad his work, including one using fish heads from the prison kitchen and another of flesh being cut by a knife, had arrived.

Williams, serving five life sentences, has become an accomplished artist, specialising in surrealist work containing strong violent and sexual imagery, since being jailed five years ago for conspiracy to cause explosions and administering poison.

The exhibition, including work with prices ranging from £75 to £1,200, was planned to open at the Quay Arts Centre in Newport on the Isle of Wight next week.

On the day he fled from the jail, Williams used a payphone in the Parkhurst to call Mr Cundall and said he was glad the work was safe because he didn't know what he would be doing.



Williams: made phone call before breakout



MARTIN KEENE/PA

### Snowfalls of the House of Windsor

The Prince of Wales takes a tumble during a sledding race with his sons at the Swiss resort of Klosters yesterday.

The Prince fell off his wooden sledge twice as Princes William and Harry sped down the slope at the back of their hotel.

Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie also joined in the fun on plastic sledges and squealed with delight as they tried to keep up with their cousins.

The three princes appeared at the top of the slope together with a line of press and photographers waiting at the bottom as evening began to fall.

The Prince set off but almost immediately fell and had to clamber back on to his wooden sledge while William, 12, and Harry, 10, who had been practising earlier in the week, went past him.

Further down the slope, Charles again took a tumble and with a laugh ruefully said: "Oh no not again."

Meanwhile, Princesses Beatrice, 6, and Eugenie, 4, had been pulled up to halfway up the slope by the Duchess of York and her assistant Hilary.

Bett and, as the princes drew up in a line for photographs to be taken the two youngsters initially seemed reluctant to stand with the rest of the party but soon came over.

Prince Charles jokingly told aides after the tobogganing that he fell off purely for the benefit of the cameras.

## Yeltsin orders renewed attack on Chechnia

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

AN IMPATIENT President Yeltsin yesterday ordered his military chiefs to press ahead with the one-month Russian offensive in Chechnia and deliver him a speedy victory.

Looking grim and determined, the Russian leader told his defence and intelligence heads at a meeting of the presidential security council in the Kremlin that the army needed to speed up efforts to put down the rebellion in the breakaway republic, apparently regaining the initiative with his army commanders.

At the outset of the meeting the President had demanded to know why his orders to halt the bombing of Grozny, the Chechen capital, had not been obeyed.

The target of his criticism was General Pavel Grachev, the embattled Defence Minister, who took personal charge of last week's disastrous assault on Grozny. The operation left hundreds of Russians and Chechens dead, but failed to dislodge President Dudayev, the Chechen leader, from his power base in central Grozny.

In spite of mounting criticism at home and from Britain and America abroad, the Kremlin remained uncowed, and appeared to be making preparations for a new assault to overcome armed resistance, disarm and liquidate illegal armed units.

In Grozny, heavy fighting continued unabated yesterday, with residents reporting that the city was shelled repeatedly throughout the day, where mortar and artillery rounds hit residential areas at the rate of one every few minutes. Several Grad



Chelsea Greet sent home by doctors

## Meningitis claims fifth child victim

BY A STAFF REPORTER

CHELSEA GREET, aged 14 weeks, has become the latest victim of meningitis. She died in the early hours of Monday morning, hours after being allowed home by doctors at New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton.

Chelsea was the fifth child to die of a form of the disease in the past two months. Dr Simon Wallford, the medical director of Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust, said: "Our tests identified the germ as the pneumococcus and not the meningococcus, which has caused so many tragedies recently in slightly older children."

He said Chelsea was admitted to hospital about three weeks ago with an illness which included meningitis. She was treated and apparently made a good recovery. She was allowed home from hospital last Thursday.

She continued to be given antibiotics, but her condition deteriorated and her parents took her back to hospital on Sunday afternoon. Doctors decided there were no signs of serious illness and recommended to the parents that they take her home again.

## How to win at lottery

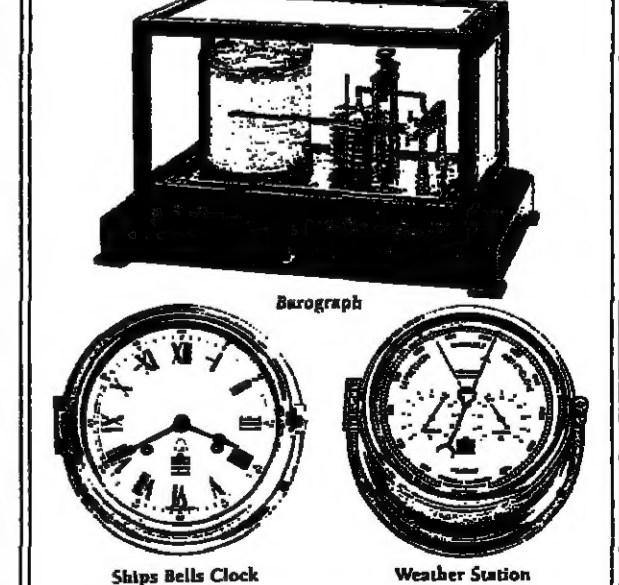
FROM RICHARD CLEBURN IN OTTAWA

HUNDREDS of British expatriates in Toronto won thousands of pounds on New Year's Day when a Canadian lottery allowed bets to be placed on British football games 90 minutes after the matches had ended.

The Ontario Lottery Corporation's pro-line soccer pool made the mistake because the games were played earlier than usual. Word spread quickly through dozens of "British" pubs and 1,941 people rushed to nearby shops to bet £3105,000 (£47,846) which won them a total of £3783,000 (£56,800). One man won £310,000 (£4,536) and one syndicate of seven shared £390,000 (£41,011).

A spokeswoman for the Ontario Lottery said that all the bets would be honoured as the mistake was the lottery corporation's and those who placed the bets had done nothing illegal.

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## Portillo echoes the Gingrich crusade for reform

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL PORTILLO, the Cabinet's leading rightwinger, called yesterday for "moral honesty" from politicians and less intervention by the State in a speech with echoed the reformist crusade of Newt Gingrich and his Republican majority in Washington.

The Employment Secretary said that politicians must show greater leadership on moral matters and avoid making unrealistic promises to voters. Insisting that "politics is about ethical conviction as well as the pursuit of power," Mr Portillo said that it was crucial that MPs acknowledge their limitations in changing people's lives.

Speaking in Liverpool's Anglican cathedral, Mr Portillo spent out his view that the state should intervene less in people's lives and that taxes and public spending should be reduced.

"One reason that politicians are held in such low esteem is that the Government has claimed to be able to do too much. It has led people to believe that they themselves can do little... when we tell people that Government can and will run their lives, we detract from their dignity."

He also called for the pursuit of economic wealth to be balanced by spiritual prosperity and demanded that some members of the Church give a stronger lead. "Prosperity without a spiritual dimension provides a bleak and soulless experience."

Mr Portillo, seen as the Tory Right's most likely successor to John Major, said that some clergy had responded to materialism and permissiveness "by becoming more secular, tending to indulge where they might have uplifted."

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# Labour steps up campaign over utility chiefs' pay

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FURTHER evidence of rising executive pay in the privatised utilities was published by Labour leaders yesterday.

The party released figures showing that the £315,000 salary paid to Sir Desmond Pitcher, chairman of North West Water, was 571 per cent more than that earned by his predecessor in 1989-90. The nine other water company chairmen were paid at least twice as much as the level awarded before water privatisation and the total wage bill for the chairmen increased by 221 per cent over four years.

Labour's attack on boardroom pay will be a central part of a "people's campaign for fairness" aimed at inflicting parliamentary defeats on the

water, gas and electricity companies at the extent to which they are exploiting monopoly positions, the salary rises that are being awarded, the perks that are added and the share options which are making people into millionaires.

North West Water claimed that Sir Desmond's salary was £263,000 in 1993/4 and not £315,000, as stated by Labour, and that his salary was for a full-time post, rather than the part-time position which had existed before privatisation.

Meanwhile, the chairman of Midlands Electricity Board was embroiled in a dispute over being paid more for working part-time than he had received for working full-time before privatisation. Bryan Townsend is paid £165,000 a year, with a £125,000-a-year pension, compared with his previous salary as chief executive of £196,000. Mr Townsend said yesterday that he had had no alternative but to take his pension when he became part-time chairman of the company. He said the board had decided to split the role of chief executive and chairman.

Labour recently published figures showing that the directors of the regional electricity companies had had huge salary increases and executive perks since privatisation.

Labour's campaign will also attack the Government's plan to end state help for mortgage payments in the first months of unemployment. From October, new mortgage-holders will receive no state help towards repaying home loans for the first nine months after losing their jobs. Existing mortgage-holders will receive no payments for the next four. The party also believes that railway privatisation can still be prevented, as people become aware of difficulties in travelling across the country.



Pitcher: Labour figures on pay disputed by company

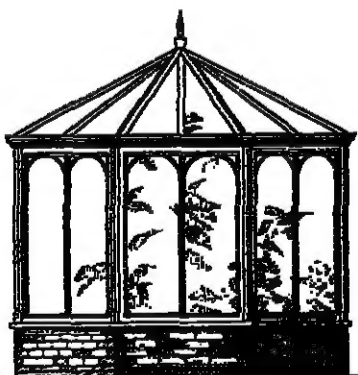
Government. The party will table amendments calling for regulators of privatised industry to reduce prices where boardroom pay is considered excessive, for executive share options to be subject to income tax and for full details of boardroom pay to be disclosed at company meetings.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, claimed yesterday that 25 water company directors were sharing £20 million in pay, share options and pension entitlements. He said that there was widespread public resentment after John Major's "weak and limp assertion" that the Government was powerless to intervene to curb directors' pay in the utilities. "Anger is boiling over with

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Severn Trent: £174,000 (£51,000) 241% increase  
Southern: £169,000 (£47,000) 260% increase  
South West: £112,000 (£49,000) 129% increase  
Thames: £104,000 (£41,000) 154% increase  
Welsh: £99,000 (£46,000) 115% increase  
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Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, paying attention at the North of England Education Conference yesterday Teachers warned, page 7

# Union chief warns teachers to end boycott

By BEN PRESTON EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TEACHERS who disrupt national tests for almost two million pupils this summer will put their colleagues at risk of punishment by the courts, the leader of Britain's biggest classroom union said yesterday.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, placed his credibility on the line by demanding that members vote this month to abandon their two-year boycott. In a letter accompanying

ballot papers, Mr McAvoy said that members must make a momentous decision: "Any member who fails to vote 'yes' in this ballot is accepting that those members who are directly involved in assessment and testing will be exposed to greater pressure and possible legal challenge."

His appeal reflected anxiety that the leadership is struggling to contain a revolt that has gained support from a third of the union's national executive. Mr McAvoy's supporters acknowledge that he faces a difficult task persuading teachers to vote

convincingly to drop industrial action, not least because he supported the boycott until a dramatic about-turn last month.

Carole Regan, the NUT's vice-president, said the union had not won any extra concessions that warranted an about-face since two other teaching unions dropped their boycott ten months ago. She said: "Mr McAvoy has misunderstood the membership. Ordinary teachers do not know why he has changed his spots and will show their anger in the ballot."

Mr McAvoy has, however, manoeuvred to ensure that any action against

tests for pupils aged seven, 11 and 14 would be unlikely to gain official backing even if the vote goes against him.

In his letter, Mr McAvoy disclosed that the leadership would insist on a further ballot to sanction the continuation of the boycott on professional and educational grounds. This would require a two-thirds majority of eligible voters, a threshold the union struggled to reach at the height of teachers' anger over the Government reforms in 1993.

# Animal exporters fined £12,000 for cruelty to calves

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING exporter of calves to the Continent was found guilty yesterday of cruelty to animals and fined £12,000 with £9,971 in costs in a case brought by trading standards officers.

Geoffrey Hall, 52, managing director of Albert Hall Farms of Stremsall, near York, was convicted at Easingwold Magistrates' Court, North Yorkshire, of transporting the animals in a way likely to cause them unnecessary suffering.

Mr Hall was accused of keeping the week-old calves on the road for 37 hours without stops for food, water or rest during a journey to south-west France. The animals should have been fed and rested every 15 hours, according to the prosecution.

The court heard that Mr Hall's company ran a team of 46 buyers who bought up to 5,000 calves a week at markets in England and Scotland. The animals were brought to the firm's headquarters at Stremsall to be selected for

home or foreign markets. Turnover had doubled over five years to £30 million, of which £27 million came from calf exports, the magistrates heard, but the firm was now trading at a loss because of disruption of the export trade by protesters.

Mr Hall said his business was continuously monitored by Ministry of Agriculture vets. "They would not have let us load [the animals] if they were not fit to travel," he said. "They received ample nutrition, water and rest before they were loaded in the trucks for export which carried up to 220 calves."

A 32-year-old man appeared at Brighton Magistrates' Court yesterday on charges of threatening behaviour and causing £650 of damage to a Dutch livestock lorry in Shoreham, West Sussex, earlier this week. Roger Webb, of Brighton, was alleged to have smashed the windscreen of a lorry. The case was adjourned until January 26.

# Livestock protesters cite Euro trade treaty

ANIMAL rights campaigners yesterday challenged a claim by William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, that the Government has no power to ban the export of farm livestock (Michael Hornsby writes).

Mr Waldegrave, who robustly defended the export trade at a farming conference in Oxford, had earlier invited the activists to meet him to discuss ways of securing better treatment for animals after they reached the Continent.

Joyce D'Silva, director of Compassion in World Farming, said: "We have asked to see Mr Waldegrave urgently. We believe the Government does have the power at least to stop the trade in calves." The group said the Government could invoke Article 36 of the Treaty of Rome, which allows trade restrictions for the "protection of human or animal life or health".

Police were expected to be out in force again last night at Shoreham harbour to ensure the safe loading of another cargo of calves and sheep for France.

# Anger at NHS chief's 100 per cent pay rise

Health chiefs have angered staff by doubling a manager's pay and giving nurses a £5 Boots gift voucher. More than 5,000 staff were given the voucher as a reward by Southampton University Hospitals Trust after it had a record-breaking first year. David Moss, chief executive, was elevated to the fourth highest-paid health chief in the country after his salary was doubled to nearly £100,000. NHS nursing staff were given a pay rise of 1.5 per cent. Mr Moss, 46, said his increase was justified because he had a very stressful job. "I have a wide range of responsibilities," he said. He also received a £5 gift voucher.

# 'Poacher' shot dead

Two farmers were arrested yesterday after a suspected poacher was shot dead in a rural area plagued by farm break-ins and thefts from outbuildings. Thomas Vout, 37, a married father of two from Murton, Co Durham, was killed by a single gunshot wound to the head on open land a few hundred yards from a farm near Trimdon, Co Durham.

# Irish lottery warning

Republic of Ireland residents who enter the British National Lottery have been warned that they may not be entitled to any prizes. Camelot, the organiser, wants to halt the illegal cross-border trade in £1 tickets that are resold for £1.25 in the republic, where lottery prizes are much smaller than in Britain.

# Wife killer walks free

The daughter of a 75-year-old man who escaped a prison sentence for beating to death his common law wife because he was suffering from dementia yesterday condemned the judge's leniency. Gillian Reilly, 32, said her father, John Hand, of Manchester, had robbed two people of a mother.

# Driving tests threatened

Thousands of learner drivers could have their driving tests cancelled on Wednesday when examiners are expected to strike over pay and conditions. The Driving Standards Agency has advised those due to take their tests to turn up unless contacted by telephone.

# Rosemary West wins ban on husband's story

By A STAFF REPORTER

LAWYERS acting for Frederick West's wife Rosemary, who faces nine charges of murder, have been granted a court order preventing publication of the alleged "confessions" of her husband. The move coincided with the opening of an inquest in Birmingham into West's death after he was found hanging in his prison cell on New Year's Day.

West was charged with murdering 12 women and children, including his first wife and two of his daughters. The interim injunction granted in the High Court concerns material believed to contain details of West's alleged confessions to the murders in Cromwell Street, Gloucester, and also to outline his motive.

The judge granted the injunction against a legal clerk said to be touting material for sale in a £105,000 deal, and against Mirror Group Newspapers. The order bans publication or broadcast of the handwritten notes.

The ten-minute inquest hearing was adjourned after Christopher Ball, Birmingham's deputy coroner, heard formal evidence of identification from West's daughter, Mrs Anna-Marie Davis.

Mrs Davis said that she had identified the body of her father on Wednesday. She gave his full name as Frederick Walter Stephen West, who normally lived at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester. She confirmed he was 53, having been born at the village of Much Marcle in September 1941. His occupation was a general builder and he was married to Rosemary West, born in November 1954.

Detective Inspector Christopher Pretty told the inquest that a team of police officers was currently carrying out inquiries into the circumstances surrounding West's death at Winson Green prison. He said that Dr Peter Adland, a Home Office pathologist, carried out an autopsy and gave the cause of death as "cerebral anoxia by hanging". After hearing police inquiries would take some time, Mr Ball adjourned the inquest to a date to be fixed.

A spokesman for the Birmingham coroner's office said later that the coroner would release West's body to the family's funeral directors whenever they wished.



Rosemary West faces nine murder charges

## CORRECTION

A report (December 6) wrongly described Mr Robert Davy, of Gillinglifffoot Farm, Healey, North Yorkshire, as being 65 years old. Mr Davy asks us to point out that he is 70.

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# Police fear fugitives may have taken hostages

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

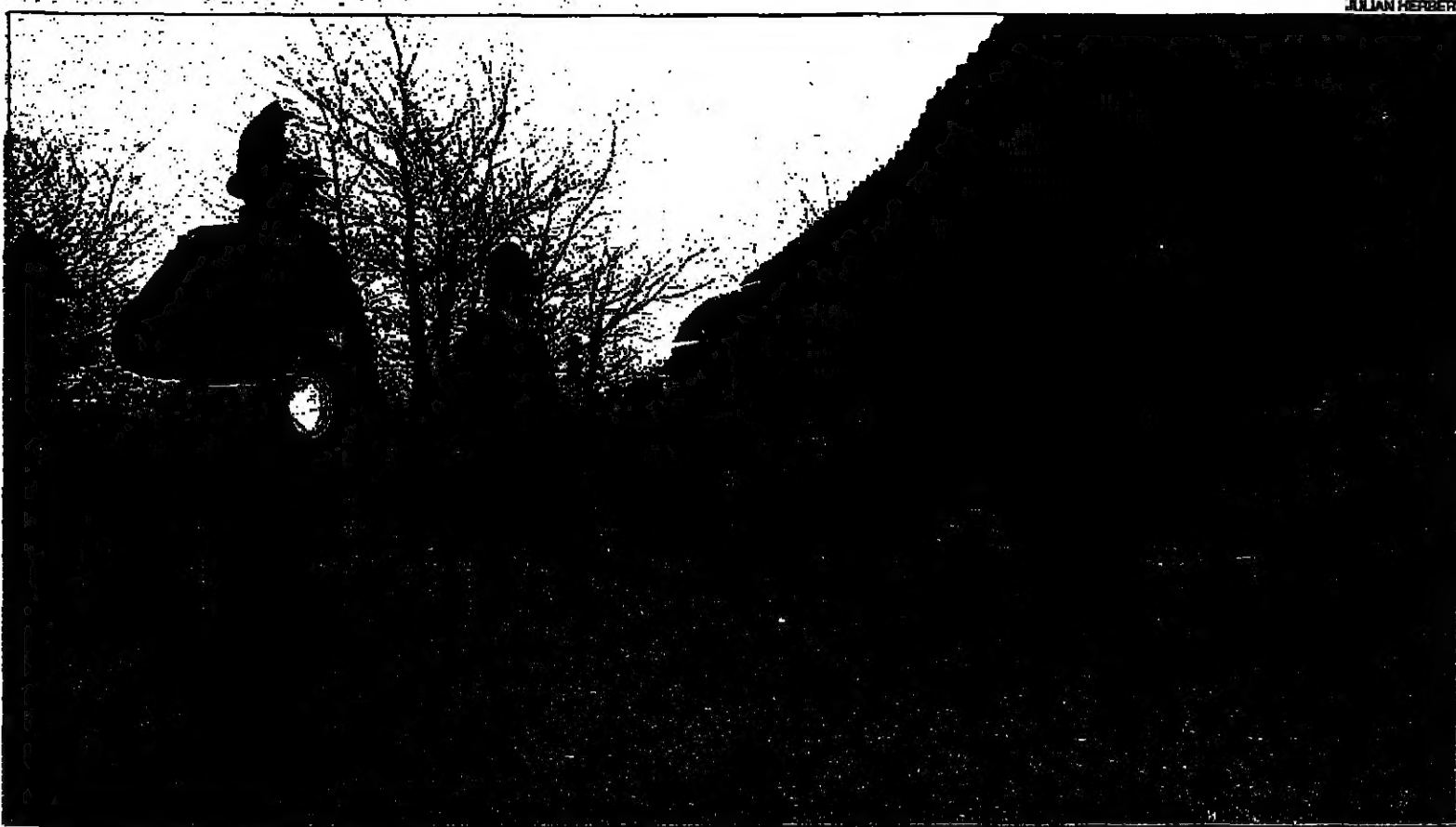
THE worst fear for police hunting the three dangerous prisoners on the run from Parkhurst is that they are hiding in an isolated house with terrified hostages.

The 250 officers in the hunt have yet to find any significant trace of Matthew Williams, Keith Rose and Andrew Ridger. The only clue has been the duplicate key almost certainly used by the escapers, which was found by a prison clerical worker on Thursday morning.

It was discovered 50 yards from the jail's perimeter fence at the foot of a pillar box, on the main Newport-Cowes road in front of the car park of the prison officers' club. Asked why police had failed to find the key, John Wright, Assistant Chief Constable of Hampshire Police, said: "We weren't searching for a key. We were searching for three escapers."

The escapers are probably still armed with the tools they stole to cut through the wire perimeter fence and may have guns. Armed police are standing by on the Isle of Wight and the mainland ready to provide help if needed.

The manhunt began at 8.13 pm on Tuesday when prison officers at Parkhurst told police there had been an escape. Although the prisoners had time to flee the island in the two-and-a-quarter hours before their disappearance was noticed, Mr Wright is presuming they are still in the area. He believes they could not have known how slowly the alert would be sounded and would not take the risk of heading straight to a ferry.



Farm outbuildings being searched at Newtown on the Isle of Wight. About 250 police are hunting for the three men on the run since Thursday

The police began their search using tracker dogs, helped by prison officers from the island's three jails. An aircraft with thermal-imaging equipment scoured the island. In the first 12 hours nothing was spotted so police assume the men spent the night indoors rather than sleeping rough.

Islanders only learned of the escape from the media, and before that the fugitives would

not have aroused suspicion because they were allowed to wear civilian clothes in jail. Prison photographs were issued but it would be easy for the convicts to change their appearance. Islanders have asked why the men were not forced to be clean shaven and to have short hair so they would look like their identity pictures.

Sea and air ports were immediately watched and vid-

eo film of passengers after the escape was checked. Road blocks were quickly established and all lorries, vans and car boots searched. The island's three police launches began checking the coastline and searching craft. Radar monitored all vessels.

Police visiting people in isolated properties asked them to take precautions. Some areas were saturated with police, with two officers stand-

ing at hedgerows every 400 yards. Concentrating on West Wight, a largely rural part of the island between the prison and the coastline, the police have been using a grid system to search all remote properties. The hunt was yesterday concentrated on the villages of Calbourne and Brighthelm. Officers also have to check the hundreds of holiday homes and caravans, which may have been hired by accom-

plished posing as holiday-makers.

There are no plans to scale down the search, although the roadblocks have gone. Police are aware of the enormity of their task. "I doubt if it is possible to search every inch of the island," Richard Horobin, a spokesman, said.

Staff accused, page 1  
Leading article  
and Letters, page 17

## Keystone Cops saga follows Florida five

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

WHILE Britain has been gripped by the story of the three escapes from Parkhurst, America has been following with equal interest the hunt for five convicted murderers who tunneled out of a jail in southern Florida.

Like the British operation, which has been littered with errors, the manhunt in Florida has begun to resemble the Keystone Cops. In one case, police chased a presumed fugitive at high speed along Interstate 95 through Palm Beach and Broward counties. He turned out to be a courier and was released with a ticket for reckless driving.

In another, officers in Boca Raton apprehended a man on top of a train, only to discover that he was trying to get a free ride to Mexico. Some forces in the area have complained that they were not provided promptly with mugshots of the men and had to rely on newspaper photographs.

As helicopters swirled overhead, dog-handlers with bloodhounds continued to root through the marshy farmland and swamps of Everglades surrounding the prison where the fugitives may be hiding.

The best information so far

has come from residents reporting garments missing from their clothes lines. Searchers have found a denim prison jacket bearing the name of one of the escapers.

The five escaped on Monday through a tunnel from the Glades Correctional Institution in Belle Glade, about 70 miles north of Miami. The fugitives, all Cubans, were serving life for murder and are said to be dangerous.

According to a sixth inmate who escaped with them but who was recaptured outside the jail, the gang dug a tunnel from underneath the prison chapel while other inmates sang and prayed over the Christmas holiday.

Every time prisoners filed in for services, one of the gang would slip through the shrubbery and into the crawl-space beneath the chapel. He would change into separate clothes stored there and start digging the soft soil with a spoon.

Once the service was over, the gang member would change back into his clean prison uniform and rejoin the other inmates. When discovered, the tunnel was 2½ ft wide and 8 ft deep and ran about 60 ft to beyond the perimeter fence.



## Islanders view breakout as a minor distraction

By ANDREW PIERCE

THE Isle of Wight, whose romantic and rugged landscape has been immortalised by Tennyson, Turner and Swinburne, is home to one of Europe's largest penal colonies.

The imposing Victorian Parkhurst Prison looms above Albany and Camp Hill jails two miles north of the island's county town, Newport. Few of the island's 120,000 residents give the 1,000-strong prison population a second thought. They have lived in the shadow of one of the country's most notorious prisons, whose inmates have included Reggie Kray, Peter Sutcliffe and Den-

nis Nilsen, for so long they have almost forgotten it is there.

Parkhurst, opened in 1838 for young offenders, became a prison for "tunatics" before becoming a top security prison. In 1968, Queen Victoria, a regular visitor to the Isle of Wight, slept well at night reassured by the presence of two army battalions. From 1939 the local bobby was a reassuring enough presence and the soldiers were withdrawn.

Lord Mottistone, the island Governor, who has the power to raise a militia to ensure the defence of the island, said most residents were relaxed about the prisons. They are more worried by the sea's erosion of their cliffs than the threat of criminals roaming the island.

"The police searched my home this morning for prisoners. They did not find any. We take it in our stride. Breakouts are rare these days. Years ago the locals used to take the plugs out of the wooden boats so the escapers never got any further than the mooring buoys."

The locals are proud of their heritage which has turned the

island into a popular tourist trap. One of the most popular attractions is the Parkhurst museum. Few people working in the tourist trade anticipate a drop in bookings because of the shadow cast by the breakout.

"Quite the contrary," said Martin Smythe, a High Street trader in Ryde. "Nearly every day there are marvellous television pictures of The Needles." Few can fail to be impressed by the most majestic of sea sights which project from the water like the knuckles of England. "People will no longer be able to say nothing happens on the island," added Mr Smythe.

The breakout could prove a positive magnet for visitors. Many tourists drive slowly past in cars to have a look at Parkhurst, dubbed Britain's Alcatraz. Mugs and T-shirts with the message "Parkhurst - the ultimate experience" are a big seller on the island.

Nor is the escape likely to deter the Royal Family from continuing its long association with the island. They return each year at Cowes Week, which dates back to 1293 when Edward I bestowed the title of Lord of the Island on his son.

## 124 who got away are still at large

By RICHARD FORD AND STEWART TENDLER

MORE than 2,000 prisoners have escaped from closed jails, escorts and institutions for young offenders in the past six years and 124 have never been caught. Thousands more have absconded from open prisons or while on home leave or temporary release.

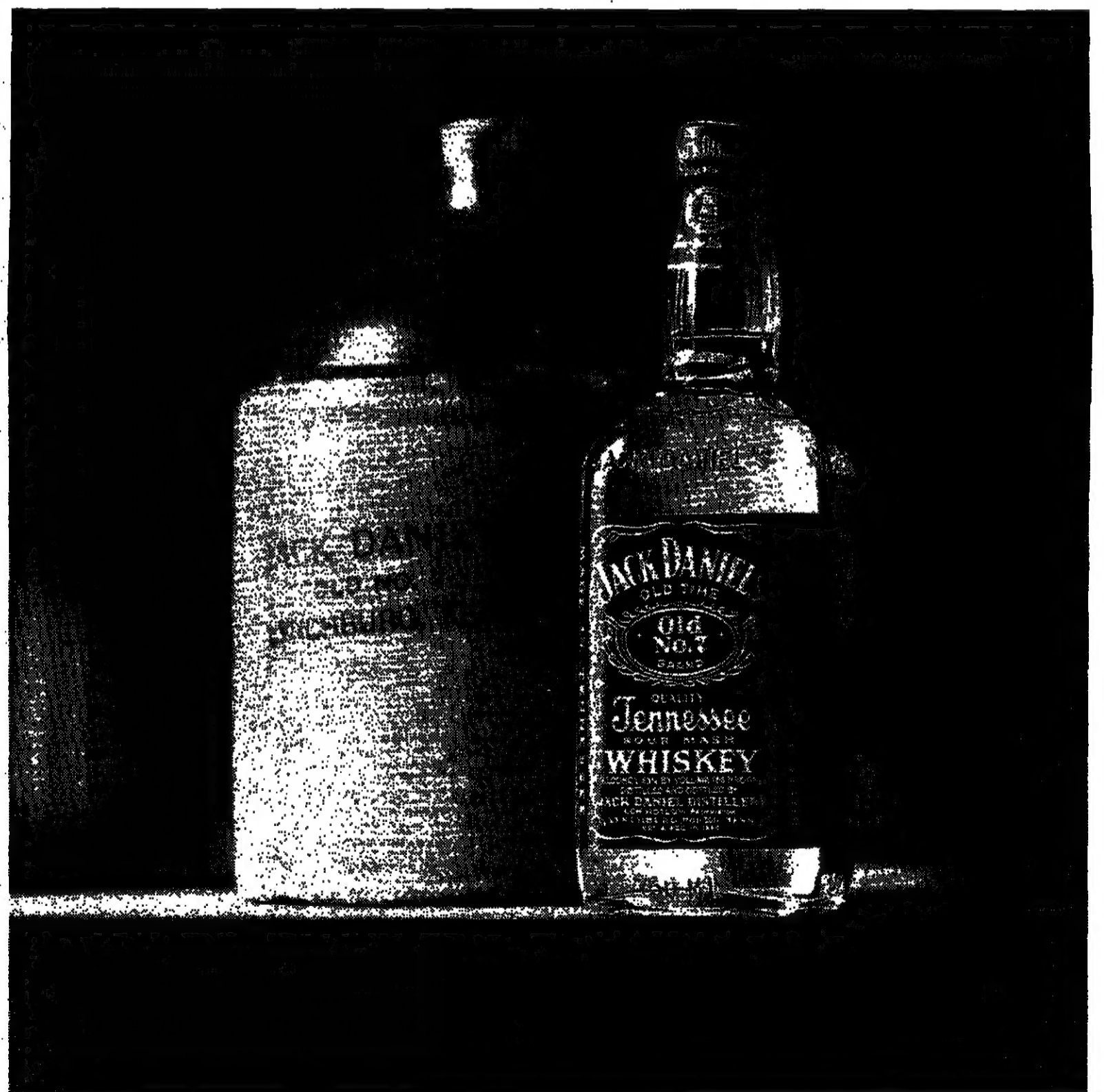
Figures show that in the 12 months between 1988-89, 318 escaped from closed prisons and young offender institutions; 255 in 1989-90, 326 in 1990-91, 473 in 1991-92, 389 in 1992-93 and 273 in 1993-94.

In 1991-92 there were 1,731 rising the following year to 1,951. When a prisoner escapes, the prison alerts the local police and police in the home area of the escapers. A more detailed profile of

the escapers and pictures are sent to the national identification bureau at Scotland Yard which runs the Police Gazette. This is a monthly bulletin sent to forces and their intelligence offices.

Details of the missing prisoner are also entered on the police national computer so that if an officer stops someone and is suspicious about him he can check to see if he is wanted.

The computer entry will give a reference for the Gazette, where more details can be found. Details of the escaper reappear every six months but if there is no sign of the prisoner after a number of years it will not be renewed in the Gazette but will stay on the computer.



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Foreign bankers and Arab shaikhs seen as possible tenants for the Gloucesters' country seat

## Royal home could earn £50,000 a year

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A DECISION on the future of Barnwell Manor, the country seat of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and home to the Duke's mother, Princess Alice, will be taken until she vacates. There is no decision on the staff or on the furniture. The Duke will continue to farm at Barnwell and his presence will be encouraging.

Household staff were informed on Thursday of the family's decision to vacate the 40-room house, set in 2,500 acres of arable Northamptonshire farmland, that they can no longer afford to maintain. Within the next three months, Princess Alice, 93, who has lived there since 1938, will move in with the Duke and Duchess, at their apartment at Kensington Palace. The fate of the secretarial and domestic staff is uncertain, though redundancies are expected, according to estate workers.

The cost of annual maintenance of the listed house, estimated at between £35,000 and £50,000, plus other costs, has led to the "erosion" of finances, according to Major Nicholas Barne, the Gloucesters' private secretary. Major Barne said yesterday: "Princess Alice will remain for up to three months and no decisions will be taken until she vacates. There is no decision on the staff or on the furniture. The Duke will continue to farm at Barnwell and his presence will be encouraging."

Property sources said that the house, built of local stone with gables and mullioned windows, would fetch between £1.5 million and £3 million — possibly more, because of its royal pedigree.

If it were leased, the Gloucesters could expect an annual income of £50,000, based on the lower valuation, a return of between 3 and 4 per cent of its value.

It is thought unlikely that Barnwell will remain empty, since it would then continue to be a drain on the family's finances. If tenants are sought, the favourites are likely to include foreign bankers with a company house in London but

wishing to spend weekends in the country during their posting, or Arab shaikhs. Patrick Ramsey, partner in charge of the country house division of the estate agents Knight Frank & Rutley, said: "Quite a lot of people would want to rent such a house in good order — people who would not want to take on the responsibilities of buying it."

Kensington Palace is the main home of Princess Margaret, but also accommodates the Princess of Wales and her two sons, the Gloucesters and their three children, and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent and their two children, as well as royal retainers and servants in grace-and-favour apartments and service flats.

Barnwell belonged to Princess Alice's father, the Duke of Buccleuch, before the First World War. The Princess, a keen and knowledgeable gardener, moved house frequently as a girl, travelling between the family's homes.



Princess Alice taking time off from official engagements to tend her garden in 1980

## A princess who embraced life as a public servant

By ROBIN YOUNG

PRINCESS ALICE, Duchess of Gloucester, is the second oldest member of the Royal Family. She was 93 on Christmas Day. She is also the least known of the royals, though she was the Diana of the 1930s and has published two notably unimpassioned, amusingly anecdotal and evocative books about her life.

Born Alice Christabel Mountagu Douglas Scott, third daughter and fifth of eight children of the 7th Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, and descended from Charles II, she married Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, the third son of King George V, in a highly publicised wedding which was the society event of 1935.

Before that, though, she had, in her own words, "had a very good time" as "a kind of pre-beauit", gallivanting out to Africa and India, almost dying of malaria, going on safari, prospecting for gold, and when her father refused to finance any further travels, mounting an exhibition of her paintings at a Bond Street gallery, and making 190 guineas.

Throughout her early adult life Prince Henry had been a friend of her brothers, and a regular visitor to their homes, which were his refuge from "prim and proper" life at court. When he asked her to marry him she regarded her acceptance as fulfilment of a pledge made while in danger of drowning in the Solway Firth 20 years earlier to dedicate her life to "some superior and useful purpose". "I accepted that I was a servant of the country."

The couple bought Barnwell Manor, Peterborough, which has a ruined castle in its garden, shortly before the Second World War. It has been Princess Alice's home for 55 years. At first, though, it was only a base as royal duties kept the couple travelling the world. There were two busy years in Australia while the Duke was Governor-General and there followed a busy round of flag-lowering sessions in far-flung parts of the British Empire.

"One always seemed to be giving places away, which was sad," Princess Alice has said. "They have been at war since, in most cases." The Princess took her duties very seriously. A typical anecdote in her *Memories of Ninety Years*, published in 1991, tells how

she hugged a polythene bag full of heather to the Malayana jungle where the King's Own Scottish Borderers — "my" regiment — were stationed in 1957.

"They were thrilled," the Princess wrote. "Heather bloomed in the jungle." And a guard of honour of headhunters attached to the regiment was "very surprised to find that the Colonel-in-Chief was a small female in a silk frock."

The princess admits that she might have had "a more amusing life" if she had not contracted her royal marriage. The "hardest" time was when her elder son, the brilliant and handsome Prince William, died in a plane crash in 1972, at a time when she was already nursing her husband, the duke, after a stroke. The duke died in 1974.

Her accounts of life at the



Royal marriage brought her into the public gaze

heart of the Royal Family make it plain that it was not all comfort and luxury but her motto can be summarised: "One gets on with it." Accustomed to moving from one grandiose stately home to another in her youth, and on the move through much of her life, her attitude to leaving Barnwell is likely to be phlegmatic, though Dame Jean Maxwell-Scott, her lady-in-waiting for 35 years, says the princess, an avid gardener, has "continued tending the garden there right down to the recent cold snaps. 'Gardening keeps me fit,' the princess says."

She only recently cut back on decades of official duties. "I can no longer compete with the noise and the travelling, all the clothes, the right brooch, everything," she admitted recently.

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'When public opinion is so movingly articulated, any judge would ignore it at his peril'

## Parents who kidnapped teenage bully walk free

By LYN JENKINS

THREE parents who kidnapped a teenager accused of bullying their children walked free from court yesterday after a judge said the public would be rightly outraged if they were jailed for the crime.

Judge Mander sentenced Elaine Lowther, 34, to 18 months' probation and imposed a £500 fine on her husband John Lowther, 45, and her brother-in-law Malcolm Barnard, 38.

Shrewsbury Crown Court was told that the three, all from Ludlow, Shropshire, kidnapped the 14-year-old boy dressed in just a T-shirt, socks and underwear, and took him for a half-mile ride in their car after their children said he was the ringleader of a gang picking on them.

Ray Singh, for the defence,

said the parents were driven by the heartbreak caused by their children suffering at the hands of bullies and the failure of school or police to act.

The judge said that he could understand why parents felt frustrated when they were unable to get help from the police, social services or the schools to stop bullying. "But what happened shows the wickedness of people taking the law into their own hands."

Judge Mander said while it was not appropriate to take public opinion into account in all cases he was forced to do so in this case. "When public opinion is so movingly articulated as it is in this case it is something which any judge should ignore at his peril."

The three pleaded guilty to a



Frank Lowther, left, his wife Elaine and her brother-in-law Malcolm Barnard, who yesterday won a judge's sympathy for their actions

charge of kidnapping the boy, Adam Farrer, for the prosecution, said that the Lowthers went to the boy's home in an attempt to end the bullying the day before they kidnapped him. "The boy's father accepted that he was having problems with his son and that the boy had a drink problem," Mr Farrer said.

On the following evening,

September 2, the Lowthers and Mr Barnard were again upset about the effect of the bullying in and out of school on their children, and decided to visit the boy's home in Ludlow again.

When the boy answered the door they grabbed him, bundled him into their car and drove off, asking him how it felt to be bullied. After half a

mile they let him out and he ran off.

Complaints about bullying had been made by the Lowthers to the school, including an allegation that the boy had threatened their eldest son with a knife.

After the case Mr Barnard, who has sons of 12 and 14, said he felt lucky that his children were able to discuss their

problems with him. "Some kids do not have the courage to tell their parents and end up committing suicide."

Mr Lowther, father of two boys aged 17 and 10 and a girl aged 12, said: "We are just ordinary parents who were driven to take the law into our own hands because no one else would do a damn thing."

The victim, now 15, said

after the case that he had not been responsible for the bullying. His father, who said he called in social workers after his son came home drunk, said the incident had affected his son badly. "When school-mates poke fun at him over it he loses his temper. But I think his sessions with the psychiatrist are beginning to help."

NEXT WEEK  
IN THE TIMES



12 pages of Times Sport, with the best of the FA Cup, on Monday

Take a guest to the theatre for 20p: details on Tuesday

Designer clothes at high street prices, on Wednesday



Isabelle Adjani, and other film stars of the week, on Thursday

Your chance to win a £1,000 French holiday, on Friday



Baines last seen in 1989 at public house

## Police dig cellar over missing householder

POLICE looking for a man who disappeared nearly six years ago were yesterday digging in the cellar of his former home. The family of Harry Baines had appealed in February 1989 for the floor to be dug up.

Mr Baines shared the house in Fleetwood, Lancashire, with his girlfriend and a male lodger. He was last seen in a public house near by.

His mother, Doris, said last night: "We asked the police six years ago to dig up the floor of that house but they wouldn't. We have always known there was something wrong. Harry just disappeared from the face of the earth in a town he had spent all his life in. To see the police finally act is a relief."

The family again reported Mr Baines missing last November. Lancashire Police said they had received new evidence about his disappearance. Detective Inspector Mike Kellett said yesterday: "Unfortunately, our investigation to date tends to suggest that Mr Baines is no longer alive. We are concentrating our inquiries on finding a body."

Two men and a woman were arrested yesterday and were helping police were their inquiries.

## Daughter met man 'who sealed father's fate'

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE daughter of a murdered accountant told a court yesterday of the day she met an American international fraudster alleged to have masterminded his killing. Michelle Wilson, 28, said Michael Austin was posing as a Mexican Army colonel called Hector Portillo when she met him in New York five months before her father, David, was shot dead by masked gunmen in the garage of his home in Lancashire.

Mr Austin, 39, of New Jersey, is alleged to have arranged the execution of Mr Wilson, 47, after learning he had spoken to police about a multi-million-pound cigarette fraud he had organised. He denies murder and conspiracy to murder.

Miss Wilson, who was held captive in the family's secluded home in the village of Witnall, near Chorley, while her father was shot twice in the head in March 1992, told Carlisle Crown Court she had gone to New York with her fiancé in October 1990. She was carrying £10,000 Mr Wilson was sending to Mr Austin.

Miss Wilson said Mr Austin had spent a day travelling with her to banks in New York to change the money into US currency. She said: "We had to go to several banks because he didn't want it to look strange."

She identified him at an identification parade held in Britain last year. "He always spoke in a Mexican accent."

Henry Globe, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that Mr Wilson had effectively sealed his fate shortly before the murder when he sent an angry fax message to Mr Austin calling him a "Mexican bastard" who had "set him up".

The trial continues on Monday.

## Clergymen upset by Christian sex advert

By CATHERINE MILTON

A NATIONAL advertising campaign which proclaims that "Christians make better lovers" is being challenged by some of the faithful.

About 400 large billboard posters bearing the legend have been placed around the country by Christians in Media, a group drawn from the world of advertising. Underneath the huge white letters readers are urged: "Find out how in a church near you."

Some clergy are dismayed

by what they see as an attempt to use sex to encourage church attendance. The Bishop of Peterborough, the Right Rev William Westwood, said: "I think essentially it is an attempt to impress the other people in the advertising world."

Father Brendan O'Callaghan, parish priest of St Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Grantham, Lincolnshire, close to where one of the posters has been placed, said: "It's a cheap way of spreading the Good News. People want a better motive for attending church. They find this slogan offensive."

Francis Goodwin, joint managing director of the billboard company Maiden Outdoor, who conveys Christians in Media, said: "We're trying to show that not all Christians take themselves so desperately seriously. Underneath there is a kernel of truth about the Christian message that love is the centre of Christianity."

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**BY RICHARD DUCE**

Neil Crespino, a spokesman for Unique Leisure Development, which runs the park, said: "He was put down as humanely as possible and it was very sad but he was just

The RCPCA had received complaints about the welfare

Criticisms of the wildlife park included a complaint that the elephants had to endure noise from the Blobbyland theme park, named after the character on Mr Edmonds's show. John Williams, a visitor to the park yesterday, said: "My kids prefer the elephants to Mr Blobby and it would have been better if they had put him down instead."



**BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH**  
**SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT**

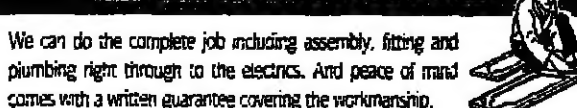
Strathclyde Police Special Branch said: "We take their threats seriously. We would urge anyone receiving such threats to contact the police."

**BY NICK NUTTALL**  
ENVIRONMENT  
CORRESPONDENT

In a separate action, the Department of Transport is suing 76 Twyford Down protesters for £2 million damages for delaying the M3 extension.

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—	Mrs La Croix	—	Boris Schapiro
Pass	16	Pass	16
Pass	26	Pass	36 (1)
	66 (2)	All pass	
	Opening lead: ♠4		

**By ROBERT SHEEHAN**  
**BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT**

hand both North and South showed good appreciation of their values, bidding a slam which normally would be on the club finesse provided there was no trump loser. When you have a part-score you can afford to bid slams that are a touch of odds against — even if you go down you still have the part-score, making you favourite to make game before your opponents do.

Broadly speaking, East has an even-money chance of holding each of the three critical cards. So the overall chance of holding all three is a half times a half times a half, or one eighth — 7-1 against in bookmakers' terms.

**By RAYMOND KEENE**  
**CHess CORRESPONDENT**

### Harriet's exploit

Harriet Hunt, 16, from Oxford proved the true star of the record breaking Challengers section at Hastings. This was the largest and strongest Challengers tournament ever with over 130 entries from more than 30 countries, including a number of top ranked grandmasters. In spite of this stiff opposition Harriet scored just half a point behind the joint leaders and scored a full international master norm, the youngest British female player ever to do so.

Harriet has established herself as the front runner among British junior players in the generation following Nigel Short and Michael Adams. In the final round, she annihilated the Danish grandmaster Erling Mortensen.

**White:** Erling Mortensen  
**Black:** Harriet Hunt  
Hastings, 1995

### Caro-Kann Defence

2	Na3	Bg4
3	Na3	Bg4
4	h3	Bg4
5	Qd3	Ni6
6	d3	e6
7	a3	Bd6
8	g4	Qb6
9	g5	Ni67
10	h4	Na6

### Hastings conquest

Grandmaster Stuart Conquest, a former Hastings resident, won the Challengers tournament on tie-break against several Russian rivals. Conquest scored 7/9 along with the Russians David Bronstein, Yuri Yakovich and Ruslan Sherbakov. Harriet Hunt scored 6.5 points. Britain's youngest chess prodigy, Luke McShane, who is 11 today, distinguished himself by scoring 5 points out of 9 in the Challengers section.

**Menchik memorial**  
In the parallel Menchik Memorial tournament the German grandmaster Thomas Luther won outright first prize with 6.5/9, a point ahead of the defending champion, London grandmaster John Nunn.

**Winning move**  
Weekend, page 27

Where is over



## Education Secretary dismisses Archbishop's call for a review of school worship

## Teachers warned not to flout law on prayers

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

GILLIAN SHEPHARD, the Education Secretary, yesterday warned teachers not to flout the law on daily assemblies and dismissed the Archbishop of York's call for a review of school worship.

In an uncompromising response to Dr John Habgood's appeal for relaxation of the rule that schools must hold daily acts of worship, Mrs Shephard said that the question had been fully considered less than two years ago, and she saw no need to reopen the issue.

Schools and teachers must be careful about the requirements of the law, Mrs Shephard told the North of England Education Conference in York. "We have no plans to change the law."

The Archbishop's comments split the Church of

the power to intervene and order schools to hold assemblies if parents complain. Dozens of cases have been investigated in the past five years, but no action has been taken against the schools involved.

Mrs Shephard said that daily collective worship made an important contribution to the ethos of a school. In a barbed reference to the Archbishop's remarks, she said: "I would hope that the Church can always find some positive things to say about moral and spiritual development within schools and in the public sector generally."

At the conference, local authority delegates gave Mrs Shephard a rough ride on opting out, but she responded by describing Labour's policy as a sham.

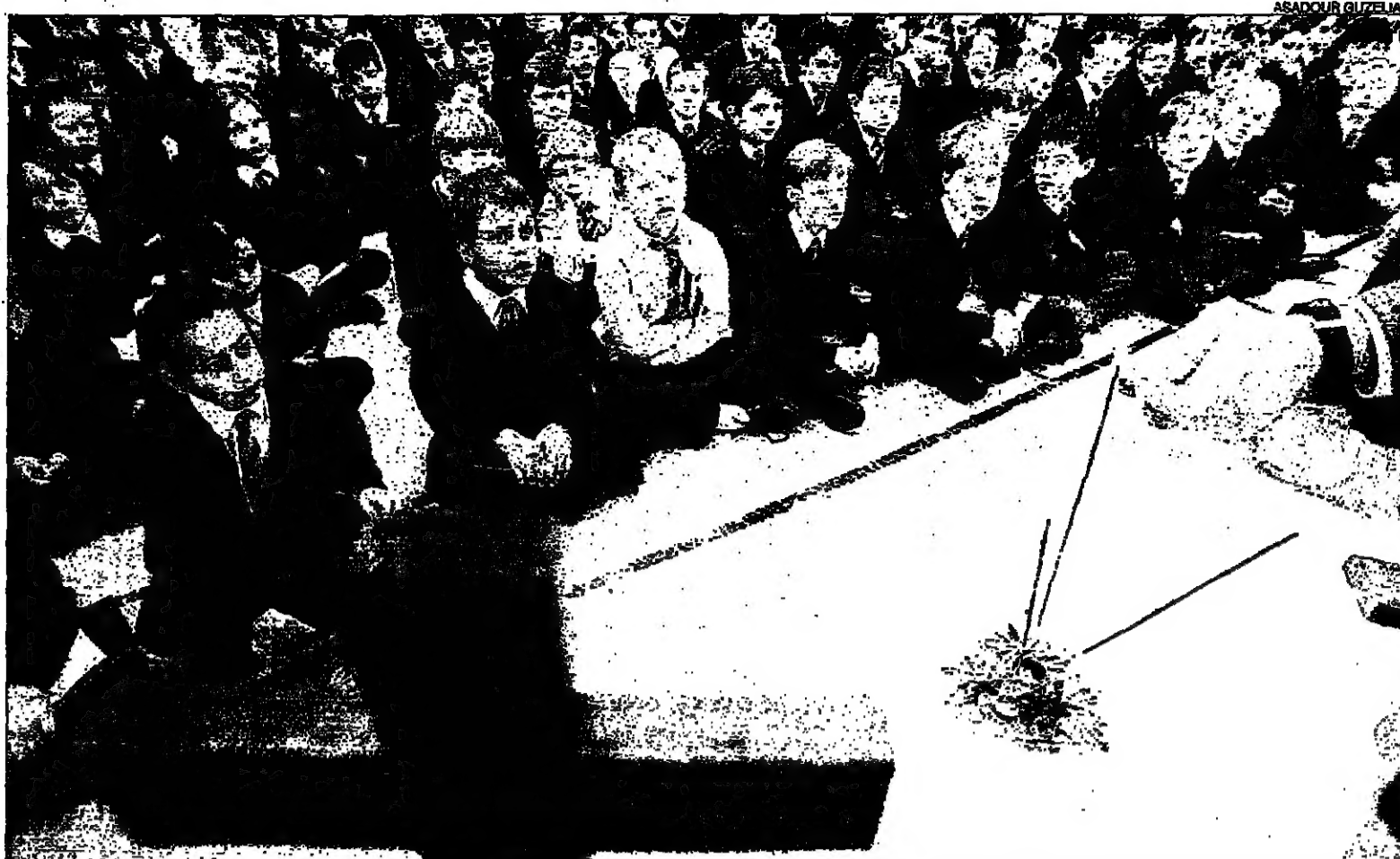
She claimed the party had one policy for the public and another for Tony Blair and Harriet Harman, both of whom have chosen the grant-maintained London Oratory School for their children.

There were cries of "rubbish" when the Education Secretary claimed that opting out would become increasingly popular and was not being used to avoid school closures. Fred Robson, a member of North Yorkshire education authority, demanded to know why Nun Monkton School, with only 19 pupils, had been allowed to opt out after being listed for closure.

Chris Tipler, director of education at Northumberland County Council, said that local authority schools should have received £3.21 billion, rather than £522 million, for capital projects in the coming year if they had been treated equally with grant-maintained schools. But Mrs Shephard replied that the grant-maintained sector was being compensated for the absence of other sources of funding.

She was also criticised over a £800 million reduction in local education budget plans for the coming year. David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the settlement would have "dire consequences" for schools, but Mrs Shephard said education had fared better than most public services in last November's Budget.

Leading article, page 17



Children at Wycliffe middle school spend the first 15 minutes of every day singing hymns and praying. Muslim pupils also take part



Fulham Cross pupils attend three assemblies a week, with no religious content

## Assemblies veer from hymns to moral debates

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

WORSHIP is top of the timetable every morning at Wycliffe Church of England Middle School in Shipley, West Yorkshire. Before registers are called or dinner money collected, 360 pupils gather in the main hall to spend 15 minutes singing hymns and praying together. David Hartley, the headmaster, said: "We worship before we do anything else. We want to show the children the importance of beginning the day with God."

It is a ritual that has disappeared from most state secondaries. Government inspectors reported last year that few met the legal requirement to provide a daily act of "broadly Christian" worship.

Mr Hartley said: "We are a church school, parents know and expect us to hold a daily act of Christian worship. A small number of them send their children here for that reason. We have some Muslim children who all attend. Their families say they want a school where God is acknowledged."

The priority given to worship at Wycliffe is rooted in faith, rather than duty to comply with the law. "We would continue whatever happened," Mr Hartley said. "But if I was in a secular

school, a non-believer with a staff that was not committed to a faith, I would worry about the quality of what is done and its validity."

While every pupil at Wycliffe marked Epiphany yesterday morning, only some of the 560 girls at Fulham Cross School in west London met to explore the theme of new beginnings and resolutions. The comprehensive openly admits that it breaks the law: girls attend an assembly at least three times a week, rather than having a daily act of collective worship.

Teachers and governors argue that their stance is both pragmatic and principled. The school does not have a room big enough for all pupils and to organise daily assemblies would require a shift system that reduced teaching time. The girls speak 41 languages and the 40 per cent from Muslim families would probably withdraw from assemblies if they were Christian.

One teacher said: "Our assemblies are excellent. While there is no explicit religious element, we give them a high priority and tackle moral issues. Having a hymn or a prayer does not make an assembly spiritual or moral."

## Arrests in hunt for mother's killers

Several people were arrested yesterday in the search for the killers of Amina Khan, 24, the mother of three who was stabbed to death in her home in Washington, Tyne and Wear, a week ago. They were arrested at homes in Sunderland and Darlington.

Mrs Khan's three-year-old daughter Hasna has told police that three people, at least two of them girls, attacked her mother while her father was at work. She and her father are now under protection by police.

## Blaze inquiry

The Government's independent inquiry into the blaze which destroyed part of Stormont Parliament buildings opened yesterday in Belfast. It is being led by Sir Reginald Doyle, former Chief Inspector of Fire Services.

## Immigrants held

Four Asians arrested at Gillingham, Kent, and two Romanians found hidden in a sealed container at Dover are being questioned on suspicion of being illegal immigrants.

## Victim dies

Mohammed Anwar, 50, died in hospital after being attacked by two men wearing balaclavas at his fabrics business in Rochdale, Lancashire, on Thursday night.

## Rape charge

Stephen Howe, 44, a former head of Northamptonshire's special constabulary, was remanded in custody by magistrates at Northampton yesterday charged with rape.

## Forgery case

Two British soldiers on a parachuting course in Florida have been charged with forgery after being arrested with fake dollar bills they allegedly took into the country.

## Buses burnt

Eleven buses were destroyed and five seriously damaged in a fire at the Maidstone and District depot, Chatham, Kent. Police suspect it to be arson.

## Special delivery

A postman who heard two climbers shouting for help at Langdale in the Lake District wrote "Help is on its way" in 15ft letters in the snow after calling the mountain rescue.

## Video scan

Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Buckinghamshire, is using its £250,000 body scanner to wipe clean hundreds of confiscated videos it has been given and is selling them to patients.



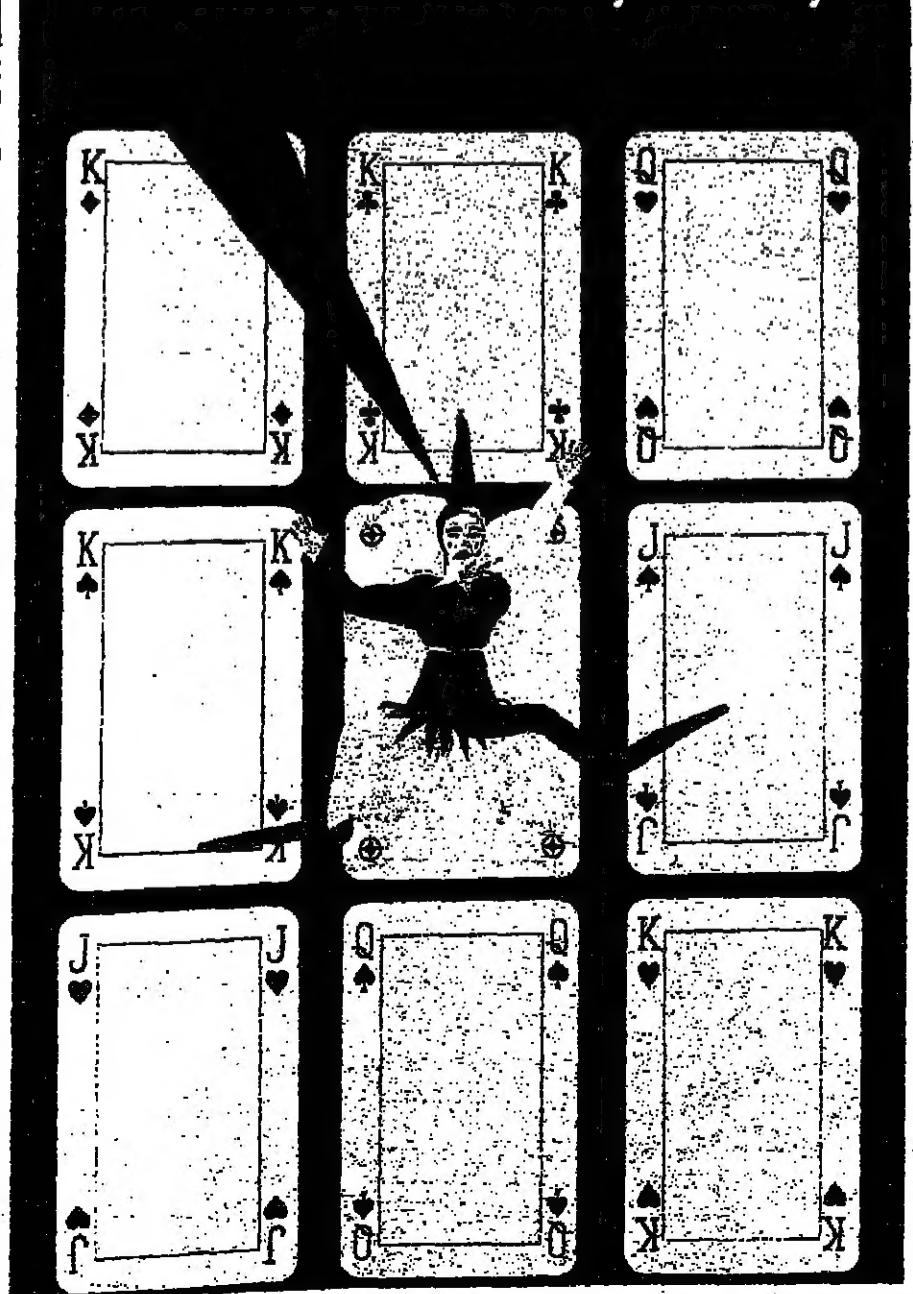
Stancil: no good if rules are broken by all

England, which is in the midst of its own examination of school worship. The evangelical wing of the Church reacted angrily. Professor Arthur Pollard, a member of the General Synod's working party, said: "To have fewer acts of worship does not mean they will be better."

However, the Rt Rev David Stancil, the Bishop of Salisbury, said yesterday: "I think the Archbishop of York is on the right lines. It is certainly not good to have rules that everybody breaks." He said schools often did not have enough staff qualified to take assemblies. Leading worship was often a matter of "Buggins's turn".

Mrs Shephard insisted that help was available for schools that faced practical difficulties. The Education Secretary has

## Where is everybody?



## Heart surgeon suspended after bribe allegation

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A SENIOR heart surgeon has been suspended after allegations that he took a bribe to advance a patient up his NHS waiting list. Police fraud squad officers are investigating the consultant's affairs.

Unnikrishnan Nair, 48, a respected cardiologist and author of several important research papers, was sent home on full pay from Killingbeck Hospital in Leeds on Tuesday. He was told he would remain under suspension at least until separate inquiries by police and internal accountants were completed.

Mr Nair, who also lectures at St James's University Hospital in Leeds, is continuing his private work at the Bupa hospital in the suburb of Roundhay. NHS patients at Killingbeck normally wait about six months for cardiac surgery.

Private patients pay almost £7,000 for the operation to be carried out almost immediately. The surgeon would normally receive £2,000 for his work.

Yesterday, Mr Nair protested his innocence. "I firmly deny all the allegations, as they are totally untrue. I am sure the investigations will vindicate me when completed." He declined to comment further, but Dr Malikayal Alexander, vice-chairman of the British Medical Association's Leeds division, said: "There is a person who has inside information and is probably using it to discredit my colleague."

He said he suspected that somebody at Killingbeck Hospital had a grudge against Mr

Nair and had "leaked so-called inside information to the appropriate sources". He declined to identify the person but it is understood to be a member of the hospital staff.

Dr Alexander added: "I think that in this case managers have had a knee-jerk reaction to what we believe is the first ever complaint against Mr Nair. 'In this country the British legal system says a person is innocent until proven guilty, but in this case it seems as though it is guilty until proven innocent. The managers have produced no evidence whatsoever, yet Mr Nair has been suspended.'

Mr Nair has carried out almost 300 of the 740 cardiothoracic operations undertaken by the four-strong team of consultants at the Killingbeck Hospital. Dr Alexander said: "They are suspending a man who has given them maximum productivity in the NHS and all for just one complaint."



Nair: denies advancing patient up waiting list

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## Fears for life of green 'spy' missing in rainforest

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

A HELICOPTER from a local church mission and a team of tracker dogs joined the search for a missing British environmentalist in Madagascar yesterday as hopes started to fade that he would be found alive.

Andrew Lees, 46, the campaigns director of Friends of the Earth, disappeared last Saturday afternoon after leaving his driver on a dirt track to do some filming in a rainforest in the southeast of the country. Gendarmes, local people and members of the World Wide Fund for Nature have covered two thirds of the 2,500 acre forest, nine miles from Fort Dauphin, but have found no trace of him. Yesterday a helicopter was sent from a local American Lutheran mission.

Friends of the Earth, along with Mr Lees's family, have offered a "substantial" reward for information. Charles Secrett, director of the group,



Lees: reward offered for information by searchers

said yesterday: "We are very much hoping that the combination of the dogs, the reward and the stepped-up search is going to lead to some results." If not, he said, with Mr Lees missing for a week, the prospects were "very gloomy".

Tony Juniper, habitats campaigners at Friends of the Earth, said that the reward "represented several months' salary in Madagascar".

Mr Lees, who was ostensibly holidaying in the island, was in fact on an undercover mission gathering evidence of environmental threats to the area, including mining, logging and deforestation for farming and development.

The group is refusing to comment on Mr Lees's precise reason for being in the area. But Patrick Green, the group's senior energy campaigner, said: "Once we have further evidence of how he is, we will be in a position to say what he

was doing there." There have been suggestions that Mr Lees, who had no food and only a litre of water with him, may have been mistaken by tribespeople called the Diereza for a mining surveyor.

Sacred burial sites are in the area which could be harmed by a proposed mining operation on the sandy edge of the forest. The sands contain ilmenite which can be smelted into titanium oxide for titanium processing.

The prospect of mining has been raised by a Montreal subsidiary of RTZ, the international mining group, which has a 49 per cent stake in a joint venture with the Madagascar Government called QIT Madagascar Minerals. A spokesman for RTZ in London said yesterday that preliminary environmental assessments had been made. He said he was not aware of any tensions between the miners and local tribespeople.

Mr Lees's girlfriend, Dr Chris Orenge, a scientist from north London, and the environmental photographer Jonathan Kaplan, who knows the area, have arrived in Fort Dauphin with a British Embassy official.

Mr Secrett fears that Mr Lees may have fallen and injured himself and he said it was hoped the reward would publicise the search. "If news spreads through the bush telegraph that a reward has been offered to find a missing foreigner, perhaps people who go into that forest will recall something they didn't attach any significance to at the time, like a piece of clothing or whatever. It may also encourage them to help the search."

He said that Mr Lees, a biology graduate from Cardiff University who became a Friends of the Earth volunteer 20 years ago, was resourceful and experienced campaigner, though he did not have much experience of working in a tropical forest.

Mr Secrett said it was unusual that Mr Lees should have gone off at 4.30pm on the last day of his trip — he had been there since December 14 — with New Year's Eve parties and an Iftar flight home next day on his schedule. "But it is typical of his commitment and enthusiasm."

"He was getting video footage and sound recordings of inside the forest. It's a dry tropical forest, quite rare and with unique wildlife, and the light at that time of day makes for good filming," added Mr Secrett.

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## Childline answers 10,000 cries for help a day

By Kathryn Knight

FIVE trained volunteers and four supervisors were manning the 20 constantly ringing telephones yesterday in the main counselling room at Childline in north London. The airy offices above the Royal Mail building in Islington, decorated with children's paintings, receive 10,000 calls a day.

The popularity of the counselling service among the nation's troubled children goes some way to explaining why one 11-year-old girl suffered more than a year of sexual abuse. The court that jailed her abuser for eight years this week was told she had tried to telephone Childline on 15 separate occasions only to get through to an answering machine.

Two thirds of callers fail to get through and Childline, established by Esther Rantzen in 1986 and costing £4 million a year to run, urgently needs more money to expand.

The lines in London are staffed by up to 20 volunteers from a pool of 300. They are particularly busy at lunchtimes and at 3.30pm, when schools finish, and are manned through the night.



Children call counsellors at the London offices of Childline for advice on problems ranging from friendship difficulties to sexual abuse

The supervisors are on hand to give advice in particularly difficult or traumatic cases. Four regional offices are open in the afternoons.

Yesterday, within the space of a few minutes, a young girl called the London office to say she was suicidal and a young boy said his mother was lying unconscious and bleeding on the floor.

Children as young as five call in but the predominant age group is 11 to 14. Mary MacLeod, director of counselling services, said that the children use the service for a

variety of reasons. "They ring about absolutely everything, from friendship difficulties and bereavement, problems with drugs, to domestic violence and sexual abuse. Some of them call for practical advice on issues like pregnancy, others want reassurance about their sexuality or popularity. The unifying factor is that they all need our emotional support."

Trained Childline counsellors, most of them volunteers working under the paid supervisors, have to tread a

delicate balance between respecting a caller's right to confidentiality and taking action in high-risk situations. "We encourage the child to consider the options," Ms MacLeod said. "If someone rings reporting sexual abuse, we will try and gently encourage them to let us contact social services. We need to make sure they are ready to accept the consequences of their decision."

In crisis cases, Childline will contact ambulances, police or the social services without the child's permission, but this is always a management decision.

Many children see Childline as a friend, and often ring back to give progress reports or to thank counsellors for their help.

Childline organisers hope to expand the regional offices and would like to see more government funding: the Department of Health grant is £100,000 a year. Detractors have accused the service of creating hysteria and encouraging children to make false accusations of sexual abuse, but Ms Mac-

Leod thinks the statistics more than justify the service. "How can you argue with 10,000 callers a day?"

For Mandy, a volunteer counsellor who works a four-hour shift each week, the issue is simple. "It can be very stressful and frustrating when you are aware that there are children ringing but the crucial fact is that through our service, children know there is someone out there who will help them. That's the most important thing of all."

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Crash pilots had been on duty for nine hours

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Air Algerie crew were not covered by British rules limiting shift times

## Crash pilots had been on duty for nine hours

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE Algerian pilots of the Boeing 747 that crashed near houses in Coventry last night had been on duty for nine hours and made four flights in poor weather through some of Europe's busiest air routes, it was revealed yesterday.

British pilots are not allowed to fly for more than nine hours if their shift begins after 10pm, but because the aircraft was chartered from Algeria the Civil Aviation Authority had no control over the length of time its crew could be on duty.

At the time of the crash, at 9.55am on December 21, the Algerians might just have been inside the time limit, but had they taken off again, as intended, on a fifth cattle delivery flight, they would have been over the limit.

According to an interim report by the Department of Transport's air accident investigation branch, the crew was called from its hotel near Coventry, taken to the airport

and took off at 12.59am. The 20-year-old jet was flown to Amsterdam where it unloaded its cargo of live animals before returning empty at 3.42am.

More animals were loaded and the aircraft left Coventry for Amsterdam again at 4.52am, unloaded its cargo and returned empty about 7.35am. Poor weather and fog caused the Air Algerie crew to circle in the hope that the fog would lift but after nine minutes the plane diverted to East Midlands to wait for the weather to improve.

After an hour and a half it was decided that conditions at Coventry had improved sufficiently and the crew was given clearance to make a surveillance radar approach. The jet was not able to receive the beam from the airport's instrument landing system and was instead guided down by ground controllers who could tell whether it was straying from the runway centre line but not its height. All seemed to be going well until the



The wreckage of the Boeing, in which five people died, is being reassembled at Farnborough

aircraft was within two miles of landing. At this point it should have been just below 600 feet. Then the aircraft's power failed as the jet flew into the top of an electricity pylon.

The standby power system activated within ten seconds and the controller called the

aircraft in order to ask the crew its intentions," said the report. "There was no response and the controller in the visual control room noticed a column of smoke rising from the final approach area and operated the crash alarm."

The jet had hit an 86ft

electricity pylon and rolled to the left, clipped two houses with its left wing and smashed upside down into woodland, killing all five people on board.

Although there is no evidence of a mechanical problem with the aircraft the wreckage is being reassembled

at Farnborough to establish the cause of the crash. It is likely to be at least a year before a full report into the accident is published.

However, the air accident investigation branch could make any safety recommendations it considers necessary before then.

Corda

## The winning combination for eternal life

Lavinia Byrne

WE now have a powerful new metaphor: every Saturday evening as the National Lottery is drawn, those coloured balls tumble around at random and line up to tell us whether we have won a fortune. That is what randomness looks like and yet how orderly it appears. What an amazing image.

Christianity has well over six winning balls in the air. What is a win of £18 million compared with the promise of eternal life? And, in any case, the Gospel claims to have already lined up those shining balls. The winning numbers are already known and everyone can play with them. They are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. At the beginning of a new year there is an invitation. "Will you, won't you, will you, won't you join in the dance?" The invitation is to enjoy the randomness of grace and to let its innate order re-pattern human life. We too can expose the gifts of the Spirit and live the life of the saints. This is a promise that meets human life at its most vulnerable and hopeful. This is the ultimate jackpot, the promise that suddenly we could stop worrying about how good or how bad we are, how lovable or unlovable. Suddenly everything would be all right.

What a contrast to the wisdom of the past year. Last year worthiness was the order of the day. It appeared in various guises as a reaction to the dirty doings of the sleaze brigade who brought public life and public service into disrepute. This reaction affected us all. It meant backtracking and public denials or careful rewording

and reworking of our reality so that we could present ourselves with squeaky clean faces. Suddenly everyone in public life was to be super-accountable.

There is a wealth of difference between the random and orderly life of someone who is inspired by the fruits of the Spirit and the worthiness of the born-again puritan. This is a peculiarly British heresy. It was invented by Pelagius, a 4th century Romano-British monk. In AD390 he went to Rome and was so shocked by the immorality of Roman Christians that he began to preach a new reading of the Gospel. He claimed that human free will is the most important element in human perfection; we can work out our own salvation. This makes God and the saving work of Jesus quite dispensable. So much, too, for the

work of the Spirit. For in its place we have a rational heretical doctrine that denies the reality of original sin and locates grace within the natural gifts of human beings, including free will, reason and conscience. Worthiness becomes an out-and-out winner; grace comes a poor second.

The irony is that people who have never heard of Pelagius can teeter on the brink of Pelagianism. This is how enticing worthiness is. And that is why grace must be given a better chance. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. What a winning combination!

□ Lavinia Byrne is Associate Secretary for the Community of Women and Men in the Church. She works for the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland.

## Preachers urged to project passion in the pulpit

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

GOOD preachers must be called by God if they are to deliver an effective message, nearly 200 preachers were told yesterday.

Two of Britain's top preachers outlined steps to bring passion back into the pulpit at the church conference. Preachers should not judge but show compassion and understanding for those who struggle with Christian doctrine, such as the truth of the Bible miracles, they said. Preachers should also try to address the personal moral and spiritual difficulties that are being faced privately by many members of their congregations.

The conference on the "Art of Preaching" at the Methodist Church's Cliff College near Chesterfield, Derbyshire, comes as the College of Preachers, an interdenominational body which seeks to encourage better preaching, and The Times are seeking entries for the Preacher of the Year Award. The award, to be assessed on written texts and delivery, is open to lay and ordained preachers of any denomination.

The Rev William Davies, retired principal of Cliff College and former president of the Methodist Conference, said: "Preaching is a prophetic gift, you either have it or you don't. No sermon can be delivered with power unless that message has first been written by God on the heart of the preacher. Without the presence of the Holy Spirit, there may be wonderful oratory but no power."

The Rev Brian Beck, former president and now secretary of the Methodist Conference, said too many preachers speak as if to a "fantasy world which does not really exist" and fail to make proper use of the Bible.

They use religious jargon which only the "initiated" can understand and are often so eager to show off their scholarship that their sermons are little more than "undigested bits of textbooks served up to the congregation", he said.

"Too many prepare sermons forgetting that they have to be read out loud. Preachers must encourage in their congregations 'the notion of doing things for service without being paid, the importance of spiritual values above material ones'."

Mr Beck said one of the most difficult problems faced by preachers today is how to approach Bible miracles such as the feeding of the 5,000. "I would not want to force on to people a view about whether a miracle took place." More important than the historical accuracy of the story was the message it carries for today, he said.

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Weekend, page 2

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Name and daytime phone number (essential) of person making the nomination: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Clinton and Hurd send messages to Moscow amid fears about Yeltsin's political future

## Britain and US demand end to war in Chechenia

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN and America called for an end to attacks on civilians in Chechenia yesterday amid growing alarm about President Yeltsin's conduct and political future.

President Clinton sent Mr Yeltsin a letter urging him to accept the European Union's proposal that he should invite the 53-nation Organisation on Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to seek a peaceful resolution.

Britain sharply criticised the Russian attacks and called for an early end to the fighting. Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said that he had sent a message to Andrei Kozyrev, his Russian counterpart, conveying Britain's deep concern.

Mr Hurd said in Delhi that three things were needed: "An early end to the fighting, so that civilian casualties are brought to an end; humanitarian relief to reduce suffering—we support what the Red Cross is trying to do to bring in supplies; we support what we all, as Europeans, have said in Moscow on this point in recent days: and a political solution so that Russians and Chechens understand what Chechen autonomy means."

The Foreign Secretary, touring India, said he had sent a message to Mr Kozyrev underlining the points. Britain has already made it clear that it supports calls for a full discussion on the fighting at the meeting of the OSCE in Vienna next week.

A senior White House official told the *New York Times* that, in his letter, Mr Clinton said that "what we are saying to the Russians is that we continue to support the idea that Chechenia is part of Russia and that the territorial integrity of Russia is very important. But we are also saying that the application of military tactics has caused

enormous civilian casualties, we hope the Russian Government could take action to reduce them, and that we hope the Russians will consider the Europeans' proposal as one effective way to heal the wounds."

Mr Clinton's letter underscored the message delivered by Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, in a 30-minute telephone call to Mr Kozyrev on Thursday. Mr Christopher said later that he believed the military operation had spun out of control, but Mr Kozyrev had promised to do everything possible to minimise the bloodshed.

In Washington there is now considerable concern and media outrage about the killing of civilians and fears about the consequences of the disastrous Chechenia operation for Mr Yeltsin's political future.

Robert Dole, the new Senate majority leader, has questioned whether the man whom America has backed so unequivocally will survive another year. The CIA believes Mr Yeltsin has cast his lot with an "old-think inner circle" of anti-democratic advisers who argued for using the military to crush the Chechen revolt. The Administration has reportedly begun a high-level study of what would happen if Mr Yeltsin fell and who might succeed him.

The man Washington would favour, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, is no longer considered the automatic successor, and two army generals are said to have appeared on the list of possible candidates. They are Boris Gromov, the Deputy Defence Minister and former commander of Soviet forces in Afghanistan, and Alexander Lebed, commander of the 14th Army in Moldavia.

Letters, page 17



A Chechen soldier performs a traditional dance for his comrades yesterday despite a fierce mortar and artillery attack by Russian forces

## Conflict sparked by oil supply routes

Control of the rebel Caucasus republic lies at the heart of Russia's Central Asia policy, writes Patrick Heren, Editor of European Gas Markets

THE key to Moscow's bloody determination to quell the Chechens lies in the region's position astride the oil routes from Central Asia to the Russian Black Sea.

The pipelines out of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan all lead through Chechenia. As the chief executive of a major Western oil company remarked: "Whichever way we look at the export options, it always comes back to Grozny." That is a legacy of Chechenia's status as an old oil producing and refining area.

While it is possible to build pipelines beyond the reach of the Chechens and their neighbours, the expense would be prohibitive.

The Chechens have used the past three years to impose a heavy tariff on all the Russian and Central Asian oil moving across their territory. But more sinister, from Moscow's point of view, has been the way in which, under President Dudayev's leadership, the Chechens have spread their tentacles throughout the post-Soviet oil mafia, earning

money from protection and other rackets throughout the largely landlocked Russian oil network.

In a country as dependent on oil and gas revenues as Russia is, the people who run the country also run the oil industry. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, used to head Gazprom, the state gas company and has forged a strong alliance with the Russian military leadership.

This is a high stakes game that goes to the heart of Russia's central Asia policy. After the break-up of the Soviet Union, Western oil companies eager to exploit the vast hydrocarbon wealth of the old "evil empire" concentrated their efforts on Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan rather than on Russia itself. It was far easier

to do business with the new Central Asian khans than with the tangled Russian interest groups that controlled Siberian oil.

Kazakhstan proved to be the sweetest honey pot. Not only does it contain known deposits of oil and gas that dwarf anything discovered in the North Sea, but its power structure is quite straightforward: nothing moves in Kazakhstan without the consent of President Nazarbayev.

Western interest has centred on two vast hydrocarbons reservoirs at Tengiz, on the eastern shore of the Caspian Sea, and further north at Karachaganak, close to the Russian border. The American company Chevron negotiated long and hard for Tengiz, finally establishing a joint venture company with the

Kazakhs, which hopes eventually to export a million barrels a day. That is worth about \$6 billion (£3.8 billion) a year.

At Karachaganak, British Gas and the Italian oil company Agip are jointly negotiating with Mr Nazarbayev's representatives for a similar concession. There is less oil than at Tengiz but three times as much gas as in the British sector of the North Sea. While the British Gas consortium is

considering other options which by-pass Chechenia, all lead to the Black Sea.

In Kazakhstan, the oil and gas lie in the western Russian half of the country. A thousand miles of desert lie between them and the Kazakh majority in the east. It would not be too difficult for a Russian government to find an excuse to lop off western Kazakhstan. But first the Russians must secure Chechenia.



## Refugee children find haven in school

FROM BILL GASPERINI IN KHASAVYURT, DAGESTAN

AS YOU approach the red brick building known as the Seventh Kindergarten on the outskirts of Khasavyurt, the sounds of playing children fill the air.

But these are not normal schoolchildren, nor is this a normal kindergarten. For the building is crowded with refugees from the war in neighbouring Chechenia, who have fled to this dreary town across the border in Dagestan.

Some children have been here with their mothers for months, shortly before Russian forces poured into Chechenia. Almost all the fathers remain at home, fighting the Russians. Now many more women and children are arriving from villages south of Grozny which have been bombed by Russian warplanes. Most come from the town of Shali that was devastated by a air attack on Tuesday.

"We never thought it would happen there, no one was prepared," said Rasila Aliyeva, 36. "Luckily we managed to get into a shelter before the planes came back again." She was wearing a red shawl and holding her two-year-old son, Hamzat. He was wheezing uncontrollably from a bronchial infection.

The 238 refugees stay in what were cheerful classrooms until early December. Only two small groups of children attend class now that the new year's holiday is over. Most other children stay at home.

Among the new arrivals are people who have become refugees for a second time in a month. Malika Azizova fled her home on the outskirts of Grozny in early December, going to Shali (about half an hour's drive south) thinking all would be safe there. Then came the horror of last Tuesday.

Food for the refugees come from local townspeople. This northern part of Dagestan has a large Chechen population, overwhelmingly sympathetic to the fight against Russia.



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# Slovo, ANC veteran Communist strategist, dies of cancer



Joe Slovo at a press conference in Johannesburg in 1990, soon after his return to South Africa from exile

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN  
IN JOHANNESBURG

JOE SLOVO, South Africa's Communist Minister of Housing, the African National Congress's finest political strategist, and once the man most hated by the apartheid regime, died peacefully at his home in Johannesburg yesterday morning. He was 68.

Driven into exile, demonised by the former white rulers of his country as a KGB colonel, targeted for assassination, and widowed by a parcel bomb opened by his wife, Ruth First, Mr Slovo was latterly respected on all sides as the most effective minister in President Mandela's Cabinet.

He was behind the "Sunset Clause", which led to the government of national unity, under which the power of the black majority is diluted for five years. Mr Slovo was

diagnosed as suffering from bone-marrow cancer the year after his return from exile in 1990. For three years, the disease was controlled and appeared to be in remission, but late last year his friends were shocked by his physical deterioration. He lost weight, his voice became thin and husky, and his bones broke easily.

But his mind and political acumen were as sharp as ever: he continued to negotiate with banks, finance houses and the construction industry, and only a month ago his ministry produced the crucial White Paper outlining how the country would build the three million houses it desperately needs before the end of the century.

Last week, his ministry announced that he was no longer going to work, but was resting at home, although he continued to see senior civil servants from his department. A funeral

service will be held a week tomorrow in the Johannesburg City Hall.

Tributes were paid by a wide range of political leaders and groups. Mr Mandela said: "The nation mourns the passing of a great South African patriot." Mr F.W. de Klerk, the Deputy President, said: "He played a crucial role in the negotiation process, which led to our new constitution, the April election and the establishment of the government of national unity."

Mr Mandela acted quickly to name a successor, choosing Sankie Nkomo, 43, the Deputy Minister of Welfare. Mrs Nkomo was defeated in last month's ANC election for the post of Deputy Secretary-General by Cheryl Carolus, but she remains popular. She trained as a teacher, but after she and her husband went into exile in 1977 worked as a journalist and as an announcer for the anti-

apartheid Radio Freedom in Zambia and Tanzania.

When his illness was first diagnosed and he began a course of chemotherapy, Mr Slovo withdrew as Communist Party secretary, but was elected chairman. His successor as secretary was Chris Hani, assassinated in 1993. But even without these two charismatic leaders, the Communist Party will continue to supply much of the energy and creative thinking in the ANC.

While the Slovo generation is passing, there is a generation of younger Communists ready to take their place. Jeremy Cronin, 45, for example, is described by political scientists as one of the subtlest of the Communist thinkers in the higher reaches of the ANC. He also impresses as an articulate and literate exponent of policy. Miss Carolus, 37, is another younger central commu-

tee member with huge support among ANC members.

It seems unlikely that the Communist Party and the ANC will ever part. "In an interview given by Mr Mandela soon after he came out of prison, he said that the ANC and the Communist Party would go their separate ways, but that has pretty much been forgotten," said David Welsh, of the political department of the University of Cape Town, yesterday.

"The CP is powerfully entrenched in the ANC and the trade union movement, and they are going to hang in there. They have something like 50,000 members, but their influence is out of all proportion to their size. Their organisational and strategic skills will continue to make them pretty much indispensable."

Obituary, page 19

## Sri Lanka ceasefire raises hopes of end to 12-year civil war

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

A FORMAL ceasefire takes effect in Sri Lanka tomorrow to prepare the way for negotiations to end 12 years of civil war with Tamil separatists that have claimed 30,000 lives and devastated northern areas of the island.

Security forces and the Tamil Tiger guerrillas, who are demanding a homeland in northern and eastern regions, have agreed to establish demilitarised zones between their front lines. The ceasefire pact is one of the most hopeful signs of permanent peace since the conflict began, although it remains possible that the rebels will simply use the truce to regroup and exact concessions before taking up arms again.

The President, Chandrika Kumaratunga Bandaranaike, told parliament yesterday that the agreement would "hopefully be the dawn of a new era". Proposals for power-sharing in the north and east would be submitted to the Tigers soon. Government

officials said preliminary talks would be held this month in preparation for substantive negotiations.

Mrs Kumaratunga, who is also Finance Minister, said peace would also yield an economic dividend. The war costs the government \$400 million (£260 million) a year. "The fundamental obstacle to increased foreign investment is Sri Lanka's costly and prolonged ethnic conflict," she told parliament.

The ceasefire is the first since June 1990. That and other truces were generally exploited by the Tigers. The rebels have already won significant concessions from the Government, including a promise to allow more goods to enter the Jaffna peninsula, where the Tigers have their stronghold. Colombo has also promised to invest £23 million to rebuild Jaffna, which has no electricity, telephones or running water.

Mrs Kumaratunga and Velupillai Prabhakaran, the

Tigers' leader, have signed a formal document providing for a "cessation of hostilities". It comes into effect, coincidentally, on the ninety-sixth anniversary of the birth of the late Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, a former Prime Minister and Mrs Kumaratunga's father. He was assassinated in 1959. In 1988, Mrs Kumaratunga's husband, a popular film actor who became a politician, was shot.

The truce is a personal achievement for Mrs Kumaratunga, who won the general election last August after promising to seek peace with the Tigers. The ceasefire will be monitored by a committee that will include foreign representatives, probably from the International Committee of the Red Cross, which was responsible for exchanging letters between the Government and the Tigers in recent weeks. Jaffna is completely encircled by the army and navy. Government forces are confident they could take it at any time, but with substantial military and civilian casualties. The rebels are weaker than at any time in the past 12 years and there is clearly strong sentiment among the island's 2.4 million minority Tamil community in favour of a negotiated settlement.

As talks begin, the Tigers and Government troops will stare at each other across a 1,000 ft-wide demilitarised zone. The rebels have agreed to open a land route for Government vehicles to take supplies to Jaffna. Earlier, they had refused to do so in case the route was used by the army to storm the stronghold.



Kumaratunga: war is barrier to investment



Prabhakaran: rebels have won concessions

## Party rebellion threatens to topple Tokyo Government

FROM ANDREW MARSHALL IN TOKYO

REBELS in the Socialist Democratic Party of Tomiichi Murayama, the Japanese Prime Minister, were preparing to form a breakaway party yesterday.

Sadao Yamahana, the former SDP chairman, said a preparatory meeting for the new party would be held on Monday, a day before the Prime Minister leaves for a summit meeting in Washington. Japan's ruling three-party coalition could be severely weakened, leading to a snap general election and the defeat of Mr Murayama.

Mr Yamahana's faction accuses the Prime Minister of

dragging his feet on a proposal to absorb the SDP into a reborn Socialist party intended to challenge the dominance of the two conservative forces, the Liberal Democratic Party, which leads the ruling coalition, and the New Frontier Party.

In an attempt to discourage the rebellion, Mr Murayama supported a separate proposal of a new party to be created at a later date. He called on the SDP to act as one to overcome difficulties and meet people's expectations.

In Washington on Tuesday, Mr Murayama and President Clinton will discuss co-operat-

ing on the environment, population, AIDS and security in the Asia-Pacific region. Also on the agenda is the formation of the Korean energy development organisation, a multinational consortium that will launch a light-water reactor project for North Korea to halt its suspected nuclear weapons programme. Japan is expected to pay 30 per cent of the \$4 billion scheme.

The 70-year-old Prime Minister has a gruelling month ahead of him. As well as political problems, he is also recovering from an illness that forced him to cancel two new year celebrations.

## Thai sex smuggling suspects charged

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

POLICE in New York have broken up a ring of smugglers who brought scores of Thai women into the United States and forced them to pay off their debts by working as sex slaves in a guarded brothel in Manhattan's Chinatown. Five Thai nationals have been charged with offences that

carry sentences up to life imprisonment for luring Thai women to America with false offers of high-paying restaurant jobs and then holding them captive in a brothel on the Bowery. The women, who spoke little or no English, were each ordered to have sexual intercourse with be-

tween 400 and 500 men to repay the smugglers and win their freedom.

The case is the most startling yet in the revelations about Asian crime gangs in America, who now fund trafficking in people almost as lucrative as dealing in drugs.

According to court papers, the women were approached in Bangkok last summer and given false American visas and one-way plane tickets to New York. On arrival, the women were taken to the brothel and told they could not leave until they had "400". One woman said she thought initially that meant \$400, but soon discovered that it was the number of men she was required to have intercourse with.

Other women were told they had to meet a quota of 500. Many kept scrupulous records of the number of men

with whom they went to bed. Police say that the standard rate for sex at a Chinatown brothel is \$130 (£83), of which \$30 goes to the brothel and the rest to the prostitute. By that reckoning, each woman was required to earn her captors between \$40,000 and \$50,000 to gain her freedom.

The women were kept inside a building manned by guards and monitored by video cameras, and were almost never allowed outside. The smugglers told the women that they would be hunted down by gang members if they escaped.

The immigration authorities first learnt about the brothel in October when a Thai woman told police that women were held against their will. But the brothel was allowed to remain open for almost a month while the investigation proceeded.

## Rationing imposed on Chinese

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY  
IN HONG KONG

GRAIN rationing has been reimposed in some of China's main cities for the first time in many years, on the eve of the new year when the Chinese expect food to be abundant.

It is a blow to the economic planners who have claimed that, under market-driven reforms, the Chinese have never had it so good. The cities where grain rationing has reappeared, not long after Peking claimed that this year's harvest was a bumper one, are poor, inland centres, such as Shenyang, Hefei, Hengyang, and Chongqing.

The purpose of the rationing is to drive down the price of grain and cooking oil to at least 5 per cent below current market prices. Some of the rationing has been imposed on China's main grain-producing provinces such as Hunan.

This is a time of year when the Chinese expect to eat copious meat, but animals are reported to be starving for lack of grain in the south.

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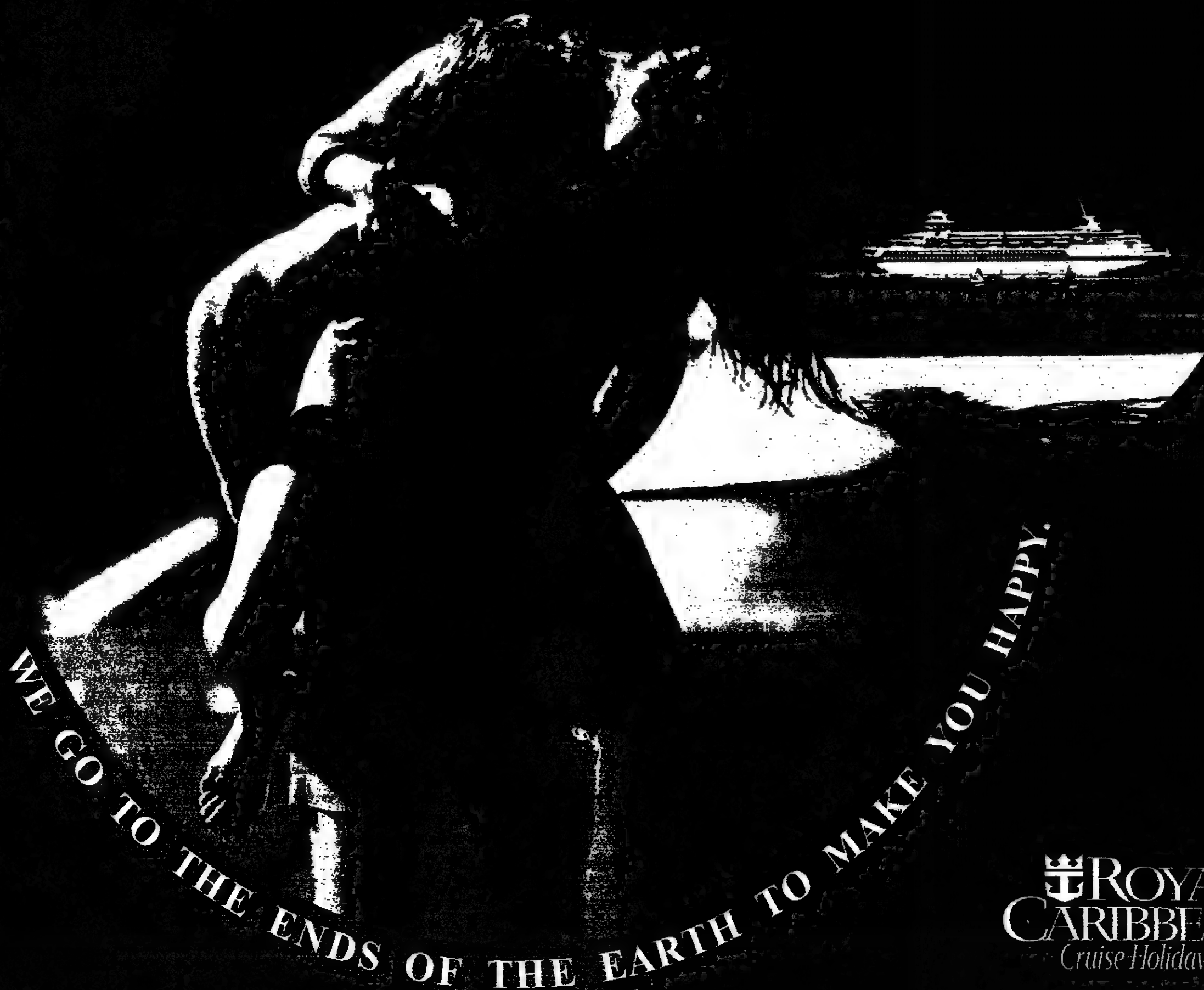
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Magyar M  
his score  
fil



Lips bunched on end  
of Grimaldi fairy-tale

[illegible]

**Exposed! Pools "System"**

[illegible]

PROBABILITY CURVE

The following information was obtained from the records of the  
 Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department:

1. The first step is to identify the problem.
 2. The second step is to define the problem.
 3. The third step is to analyze the problem.
 4. The fourth step is to develop a solution.
 5. The fifth step is to implement the solution.
 6. The sixth step is to evaluate the solution.
 7. The seventh step is to monitor the solution.
 8. The eighth step is to maintain the solution.
 9. The ninth step is to improve the solution.
 10. The tenth step is to document the solution.

...the ...  
...the ...  
...the ...  
...the ...  
...the ...

1. 1. The first part of the letter is a greeting.  
 2. 2. The second part of the letter is the body.  
 3. 3. The third part of the letter is the closing.  
 4. 4. The fourth part of the letter is the signature.  
 5. 5. The fifth part of the letter is the date.

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.



Orphaned outsider draws on Balladur patronage to become prime ministerial candidate

# Magyar Mozart drafts his score for power

## file

CHARLES BREMNER ■ PARIS

WHILE France succumbs to the ritual of choosing a leader for the next seven years, at least one man is convinced that before long the country will have a President with an odd name: Nicolas Sarkozy de Nagy Bocsa. This mouthful of Hungarian may not yet ring bells outside France. But if, as expected, Edouard Balladur takes over the Elysée Palace, its bearer will be helped towards his ambition with one of the top jobs in the land, possibly as Prime Minister.

M. Sarkozy is a wonder boy with an appetite for power. A couple of weeks short of his 40th birthday, "le petit Nicolas" is justifying some key portfolios. He is Communications Minister — having replaced Alain Carignon, jailed on corruption charges — Government spokesman, and Minister for the Budget. On top of that, he is director of M. Balladur's election machine.

M. Sarkozy is also Mayor of Neuilly, the chic Paris suburb which he conquered at 28.



Sarkozy: open ambition

## Lips buttoned on end of Grimaldi fairy-tale

A PALACE denial has done little to quell the belief that Prince Rainier has started the machinery for handing over Monaco to Albert, his son.

The evidence, it might be said, is pure embroidery. *Paris Match* has proclaimed imminent abdication on the strength of an order for new tabs and buttons for the local police. Instead of the "RG" which has adorned their uniforms since Prince Rainier inherited the Riviera enclave in 1949, the new items are said to bear the initials "AG."

French reporters who tried to canvass Monegasque opinion last week were swiftly intercepted, and apparently told that they would be locked up if they continued asking questions.

It remains to be seen whether Prince Rainier leaves in March for retirement at his French country house, as announced in the press. Some

Monaco residents believe they are witnessing the end of the fairy-tale that began when he married Grace Kelly and, thanks to a 1962 pact with Charles de Gaulle, launched the state as a haven for the wealthy. The glitter has faded of late, with a slump in the property market and French disquiet over the allegedly shady money that is passing through its banks. The arrival of the Russian *nouveaux riches* has helped financially but hardly raised the tone.

Aged 71, and recovering from a double heart bypass operation, Prince Rainier is said to be keen to oversee the transition to a son who has failed to dazzle with his qualities as a potential sovereign. Prince Albert is also unmarried, which raises worries about the succession. Under a 1918 treaty, France will annex the principality in the absence of a male Grimaldi heir.

the Gaullist leader to whom he had originally hitched his fortunes before trying to orchestrate his political murder.

While he is dismissed by his enemies as the ultimate in opportunists, this son of a Hungarian aristocrat offers a brash contrast to the elders who run France. M. Sarkozy's candour is disarming and he makes no bones about his lust for power. "With the mug I've got, I might as well admit my ambition," he says. "A politician without power is like a singer without a microphone."

A strong admirer of Baroness Thatcher, M. Sarkozy is proud of having worked his way up as a relative outsider.

Like Newt Gingrich, the new Republican Speaker in the American Congress, and many other driven achievers, he was abandoned as a baby by his father. He paid his own way through university, becoming a lawyer, and signed up as a teenage Gaullist. He swiftly grasped that patronage was the key to the French system and thrust aside his immediate elders by courting the men at the top.

M. Sarkozy allied himself to M. Balladur in 1988, when the Prime Minister seemed a political outcast. "With Chirac and Balladur, I am a sponge. I soak up everything they teach me," he cheerfully admitted on the eve of the Gaullists' return to government last year. The Prime Minister can be under no illusion about the permanence of his lieutenant's loyalty. If something about him seems familiar to the veterans of French politics, it is because he reminds them of another brilliant opportunist who became a minister in his twenties: François Mitterrand.



SARKOZY: ... MAIS OÙ S'ARRÊTERA-T-IL ?

A satirical view of Nicolas Sarkozy replacing ministers Alain Carignon and Gerard Longuet after a corruption scandal, and asking where he will eventually end up

## The case of the great violin fiddle

POLICE in Paris have invited music enthusiasts to a gallery where they are today displaying 748 stolen violins, all of which they found in a tiny flat in a raid before Christmas.

The instruments were in the possession of Philippe Hurel, 58, who is accused of cornering the market in stolen string instruments. His arrest was the first big success for Chief Superintendent Martine Montell, the new head of the Brigade pour la Repression du Banditisme, the equivalent to the Serious Crime Squad.

Since some of the violins are worth £100,000, M. Montell's men are struggling to filter would-be thieves out of the viewing line at the Drouot-Montaigne gallery. The task will be tricky. "We have been deluged with calls," an officer said. "One man called to say his very valuable violin was stolen ten years ago. He has nothing to prove his ownership but he insists he will be able to recognise it with his eyes closed, simply by touch."

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## France angers Gulf allies with envoys' return to Baghdad

By CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IN A move that angered Britain and America, France yesterday agreed to reopen a diplomatic mission in Baghdad as a reward to Iraq for what Paris views as its improved conduct.

Alain Juppé, the Foreign Minister, announced the imminent creation of a French interest section, to be based in the Romanian Embassy, after a 90-minute meeting with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister. Mr Aziz was making his first official visit to an allied capital since the Gulf War, when the Western states broke off diplomatic relations.

M Juppé said Iraq's recognition of Kuwait's borders last November was a significant step and he welcomed what he said was "movement" in implementing United Nations resolutions arising from the Gulf War. "Some progress has been made over the past months. More remains to be done," he said.

Mr Aziz last visited Paris a year ago on what the Government called a humanitarian trip. His reported medical condition did not, however, prevent him from appearing in several good restaurants.

Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi President, yesterday issued a defiant statement to the West

in an address to the nation commemorating Army Day. Wearing a field-marshal's uniform, he said America and its allies had failed to subdue Iraq through the war that followed its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "They failed to subdue the will of Iraq..." he said. His address, broadcast live by state television and radio, made no reference to Iraq's relations with the UN Security Council or to Baghdad's hopes that devastating sanctions, including an embargo on its oil exports, would be lifted.

Saddam urged Third World states to shake off foreign influence and stop acting as servants of foreign powers. "All big powers should not delude themselves into believing that neo-colonialism, which uses technological and economic superiority, will be able to achieve imperialist objectives," he said.

Paris was one of Iraq's biggest arms suppliers and trading partners in the 1980s, and France is eager to reopen business links with Baghdad. French officials also say they view a stable Iraq as a necessary counterweight to the influence of Iran and Islamic fundamentalism in the region. Britain immediately

signalled its displeasure over the French move, which confirms Paris's alignment with Moscow and Peking, the other two Security Council members in favour of rewarding Saddam.

They advocate a gradual easing of the UN oil embargo to reward Iraq for recognising Kuwait's borders and complying with disarmament resolutions. A Foreign Office spokesman complained that France, the new president of the European Union, had failed to co-ordinate its action with its partners.

"No other member state has re-established in Baghdad in this way," he said. "We remain very suspicious of the Iraqi regime's intentions in the wake of the events last October. It is not the moment to relax pressure on Iraq to comply fully with UN requirements."

In Paris, M Juppé would not comment on a possible timetable for relaxing sanctions.



President Saddam Hussein, right, greets General Ali Hassan al-Majid, his Defence Minister, yesterday on the 74th anniversary of the formation of the Iraqi army

## Tapes link Mafia to Forza Italia

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

FRESH evidence of alleged links between Forza Italia, the party of Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian caretaker Prime Minister, and the Sicilian Mafia was disclosed yesterday in *Panorama*, the media tycoon's weekly news magazine.

*Panorama* published the text of 50 conversations taped from the telephone of Pino Mandalari, an accountant in Palermo who was arrested last year on charges of working for Toto Riina, the alleged boss of bosses of the Cosa Nostra. The excerpts are the most damning evidence yet to support allegations that Signor Berlusconi only won the March general election in Sicily thanks to considerable support from the underworld.

According to the revelations, the Mafia also gave funds and logistical support to the neo-Fascist National Alliance during the Sicilian election campaign. Signor Mandalari was arrested on December 13 on charges of belonging to the Mafia.

*Panorama* published excerpts of taped phone calls, including one on March 20, a week before the election, in

which Signor Mandalari, was quoted as telling a man identified only as Sandro from Reggio Calabria: "Forza Italia is the only hope that there is today in the country."

Another conversation on March 29 — immediately after Signor Berlusconi's election victory — records the accountant telling a senior gynaecologist in Sicily: "This is a tremendous victory, bellissimo... all the candidates among my friends have all been elected."

An earlier conversation implicated Enrico La Loggia who is now the Forza Italia whip in the Italian Senate. Signor Mandalari called Senator La Loggia's office in Palermo and asked to be called back. Salvo Giorio, a member of the senator's office staff, called the accountant and they discussed statements by Leoluca Orlando, the mayor of Palermo and head of the anti-Mafia La Rete party, denouncing links between the Mafia and Forza Italia.

Senator La Loggia yesterday denied any connection to Cosa Nostra and said he had never had any contact with Signor Mandalari.

## Troop call boost to Bosnia hopes

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

ONLY a month after the United Nations was searching for escape routes for its 23,000-member peacekeeping force in Bosnia, the organisation's request to bolster the operation by 6,000 troops reflects the optimism with which the ceasefire is being viewed, as well as the West's lack of options.

The UN request — a reiteration of earlier, unheeded calls for more troops in Bosnia — came as Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, announced that his side was revoking the "state of war" it proclaimed during fighting around the northwestern town of Bihac in November. The Serbs said they would maintain their "highest state of combat readiness".

The proclamation comes after the Serbs' peace offensive that began with their invitation to Jimmy Carter, the former American President, in

mid-December. The Carter visit opened the door for the four-month cessation of hostilities that has brought calm to Bosnia's snow-covered front lines.

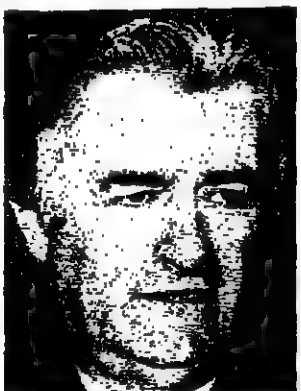
It is that calm the UN hopes to capitalise on with more troops and equipment. The UN is expecting additional helicopters and night-vision goggles from Nato countries to boost its effectiveness in monitoring and encouraging the truce.

The 6,000 soldiers would raise the operation in Bosnia to almost 30,000. Already there are 42,000 peacekeepers in the region, making the UN Protection Force the largest such operation in the organisation's 50-year history.

The Ministry of Defence said in London last night that it had received a "shopping list" of what the UN forces needed to underpin the ceasefire, and was now looking at the request.

□ **Border pledge:** The UN Security Council has been informed that the rump Yugoslavia is keeping its promise to seal its border with Bosnian Serb-held territory. The report, compiled by an international monitoring mission, is now with the council, which is to debate its findings at the weekend.

General Bo Pellnas, the Swedish head of the 180-man mission in Yugoslavia, said yesterday: "I find that the Federal Republic... has been fulfilling its commitment to close this border to the best of its capacity."



Karadzic stepping up the peace offensive

## Delors hands EC baton to Santer

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission concluded its official term at midnight last night, exactly ten years after Jacques Delors first took over as its President.

M Delors and his team are not quite finished yet, and have agreed to remain in a caretaker role for another two weeks, until Jacques Santer's new Commission arrives. In the meantime EU officials expect little executive action, even though there will be more people to share responsibility for less, since the new commissioners from Sweden, Finland and Austria, took up their jobs at the beginning of the year. The outgoing Com-

missioners will now have ample time to clear the executive desks, the executive drinks cabinets, and, if necessary, to shred any incriminating documents. For the new Commissioners the interim break provides a good opportunity to check out the golf courses around Brussels.

Sir Leon Brittan, who will do neither, has used the European Commission's status as a lame duck to devastating political effect. On Wednesday he held up a controversial directive to crack down on imports of cheap US television programmes, by invoking a rarely used clause that allows any Commissioner to put off a vote for one week "for further consultation".

The delay in the inauguration of the Commission will give new MEPs a chance to take part in the "confirmation hearings" of the Commissioners. These hearings started last Tuesday, and have turned out to be bizarre and pointless. One of the Commissioners told an aide of his surprise how tame the questions had been. "I had expected some tough personal questions, especially about my financial interests," he said.

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# My new contract with Britain

Michael Portillo echoes Newt Gingrich's political platform

Today's political leaders must not abdicate their responsibility to continue improving the quality of government. All over the world — not least in America — there is clear evidence that the public expects further reform of the State. Yet the process of improvement must be balanced by a respect for those core elements in our institutions that are constant and crucial to their survival.

The purpose of government reform is not to wreck institutions or to sweep away all that is familiar, but to leave more room for people. That, to me, is the heart of the matter. One reason that politicians are held in such low esteem in our time is that government has claimed to be able to do too much. It has led people to believe that they themselves can do too little.

To claim great powers for government is misleading. We know that most of the great changes which affect our society are the result of millions of individual decisions taken by people acting freely and reacting freely to one another. But high claims for the power of government are also unethical. Isaiah Berlin puts it well. "The desire not to be impinged upon, to be left to oneself," he says, "has been a mark of high civilisation." When we make great claims for government we become a little less civilised. When we tell people that government can and will run their lives we detract from their dignity.

When government spends money it may do so wisely. But there is no intrinsic reason why it should. Indeed, those spending lack most of the incentives to use money well that exist in the private sector. Rarely do they have anything to lose personally. They may not have to calculate the rate of return on the money they spend — money which they have not earned and is not theirs. Governments do not create jobs; businessmen do. It is mere hubris for those in government to pretend that they can create jobs at will. Indeed, it is ethically wrong for them to do so. Public policy must instead be directed towards making it easy for people to work, and easy for one human being to say to another: "Work for me and I will pay you money."

It is the task of government to help to make this possible. That is a compelling responsibility. Governments want full employment but cannot and must not promise full employment; and anyone who does is either a fool or a knave. He claims powers for himself which he cannot possibly possess. He deludes those he serves and encourages them into a false dependency.

The first duty of government is to lead the nation in facing the challenges that confront it. In times of peace, or when there is no very obvious and present threat, that will mean striving to create the conditions for material prosperity. Indeed without wealth, societies lack not only a feeling of reassurance, but also the means of doing good. Hospitals and schools are built with

money taken from the people who create the nation's wealth. But economic prosperity is not enough. People need spiritual prosperity too. It may be impossible to create a sense of national wellbeing without economic success but that success does not by any means lead to a contented nation. There is life beyond money, markets and materialism.

The collectivist programme, begun at the end of the last century, in which people are obliged to hand over responsibility for themselves, their families and others to the State, runs against the grain of human nature and brings no contentment. Indeed it bypasses or supplants the relationships and responsibilities inside families, between individuals and within communities, leading to increasing social breakdown and irresponsibility.

A well-governed nation is one in which people feel the desire — and that they have the ability — to make something of their lives, to improve the lives of others and to enhance the lives of their communities. They look to society's leaders, including churchmen, to give a lead. They also look to government to validate and underpin that sense of self-reliance and personal responsibility towards others.

Governments must leave space in which people can grow and better themselves. Governments must define the things that governments should do and restrict their scope of action to well within the limits of what governments can do. That done, they must do those things well.

Above all that, ministers must use their position to illuminate what it is about the nation that is both coherent and distinctive. They must draw its people together by calling upon their unique history and their special talents, reminding them of the way that their parents and grandparents have confronted and overcome the challenges that face them and that formed our special national character.

That requirement is more complicated in times of peace than in times of conflict. To say what the nation stands for requires more subtlety than to set out what it stands against. But that at least is one task which people rightly look to government to perform.

Britain stands for fairness, tolerance and for liberty: for free trade between nations, for the freedom of the citizen to buy and sell, to offer his labour and to withdraw it. Those rights underpin political freedom.

The Britain I want will stand for self-improvement, and delight in success; it will take pleasure in the achievement of others. It will also stand for fairness, for sensible rules, for equality of opportunities and for effective help for those in need. The Britain I want will restore to the people dignity and self-respect.

The above is an extract from a lecture given by the Secretary of State for Employment at Liverpool Cathedral last night.

Vulgarity has depths that Lord Charteris, the courtier, has never dreamt of, says Philip Howard

Quite simply, the Duchess of York is a vulgar. She is vulgar, vulgar, vulgar, and that is that. But, of course that is not quite that. Lord Charteris's observation about the Duchess of York carries lessons.

The first, as Nicholas Ridley discovered, is that when being interviewed by *The Spectator* off-the-record for a flattering profile, an old-fashioned gent should take a long spoon and go easy on the stiff browies. Marr Charteris is the most gentle of men, as courteous to a dustman as to a duke. But it would be interesting to learn his views, off the record of course, on the first name of his interviewer, Noreen Taylor.

The second is that in our supposedly classless society, snobbery is now seen as the deadly vice and vulgarity as a common virtue. A century ago, they were the other way round. And that is why today's youngish, including the Duchess of York, attempt the smoothed cockney of *EstuarySpeak*, for instance "T-glottaling" "butler" as "bu-er". A generation ago they would have been at finishing school taking elocution lessons in order to pronounce themselves ladies and gentlemen above the common herd.

The third is that vulgarity is simply the way that other people behave. Fergie alarms the old-fashioned up-

## Duchess oblige and vulgar abuse

per classes, in so far as they still exist, not just because she is a Soanly — "(The flat's) only (five minutes from Sloane Square)" — and her father, Major Ron and a polo manager, does not come from the classes that normally marry royalty. She also gives the impression of being cheerfully brassy and grasping, and in particular of enjoying sex instead of lying back and thinking of England. Attitudes towards sex are definers of vulgarity. As when the long-suffering Jane Clark said of her husband's latest scrape that it was what came from consorting with people from below stairs. The upper classes have probably always enjoyed sex as much as the vulgar. Of course the servants always knew about it. But what is new is to have it splashed all over the vulgar newspapers.

Fourth, vulgarity is a notion that is constantly changing in time and

place. The first test to sniff out the vulgar, according to John Betjeman, is whether one uses special knives and forks for eating fish. This goes back to the rivalry between great Whig and Tory hostesses. Well, the Queen uses fish-knives for her private lunches at Buckingham Palace. But then, High Tory grandees have reckoned the Hanoverians vulgar ever since they came over.

Vulgarity has been a slippery notion since man emerged from the caves. The vulgarian makes his appearance in the first book of the foundation document of Western literature, the *Iliad*. Thersites, a vulgar soldier, dares to talk back to his betters, and gets soundly beaten for his vulgarity.

In its original Latin *vulgus* meant the crowd, or what the Greeks described as *hoi polloi*, and Shake-

speare the general. So the vulgar tongue is the vernacular spoken by ordinary people, and a vulgar fraction is the ordinary sort of fraction as opposed to fancier arithmetic.

In stratified societies, vulgarity used to be simpler to define. There everybody knew their places, from the rich man in his castle to the poor man at his gate, and from the prince to the peasant. Indians still try to keep the vulgar from their betters by their caste system. Sumptuary laws and the Roman purple tried to distinguish the classes by their clothes. Only the Emperor could wear all purple. But as early as that most vulgar Emperor, Nero, his writer-in-residence, Seneca, had cautioned on the truth. "You can find the vulgar in all ranks of society, and they are not to be distinguished by the dress they wear." Or, he might have added, by their food or their

language. Oscar Wilde's enemy, the purple Eighth Marquess of Queensberry, was more foul-mouthed, hard-drinking and pig-ignorant than his coachman.

Once the class coding of the Middle Ages broke up, vulgarity became more ambiguous territory, and so a happy hunting-ground for writers from Chaucer and Shakespeare to Jane Austen and Dickens to Anthony Powell and both the Waughes. Because of the need to find officers and gentlemen (and wives for them) to run the Empire and the City, the United Kingdom was prolific with manuals about how to avoid vulgarity in everything from speaking to cooking. America had Emily Post; we had Nancy Mitford. And *The Spectator* still publishes its own (camp) agony aunt to advise on delicate class matters.

Snobs and vulgarians are funny. We can all be snobs about things we know, just as we are all vulgarians in things about which we know nothing. Dishonesty, unkindness and vanity are worse sins than vulgarity, which is the common lot of mankind — and even duchesses. By describing the Duchess as a vulgarian, Lord Charteris did not mean a lot more than that she comes from a different tribe from his. Her robust answer to such a description should be, "Balls!"

## Why do we all love Uncle?

Ronald Hingley on the universal appeal of Chekhov's extraordinarily ordinary comedy

No sooner has Chekhov been ingeniously transplanted to New York, in Louis Malle's recently released film *Vanya on 42nd Street*, than news arrives that two further films are projected, to be based on the same play. In one of the new *Uncle Vanyas* the setting is to be Australian. The other is to have a Welsh background, with Anthony Hopkins as director. No doubt the scripts are in English translation, but (lacking further information) I am hoping that transnationalisation may have gone beyond this. Might Chekhov's ailing Russian estate be in process of re-emerging as an outback sheep-station or struggling coal mine managed by its plaintive Uncle Norm or Uncle Leazar?

Chekhov seems able to travel the globe more successfully and freely than any other dramatist, except perhaps Shakespeare. Japanese colleagues have told me how popular he is in Tokyo, though they could not say why. Ibsen, by contrast, seems less detachable from his Norwegian context.

This universal applicability might seem surprising. Could anyone be duller or less resonant of spirit than poor old Uncle Vanya Voinitsky and his entourage? He himself has wasted a quarter of a century as a reluctant farm manager for the benefit of his brother-in-law, a pompous professor of art whose work Vanya has come to despise. In the play's chief anti-climax (Chekhov uses anti-climaxes where other dramatists use climaxes) Vanya works himself up to the point of letting off a pistol at his enemy. He misses, naturally, and the whole scene — properly directed — is felicitously comic. At least I think so. Not everyone would agree.

Then again, poor Vanya moans about his unrequited love for the professor's second wife, the listless Helen, herself involved in a low-key flirtation with the ecologically-minded local GP on whom Vanya's niece, the lugubrious Sonya, ineffectually dotes. All these non-hoppers brooding endlessly on their punctured illusions and empty expectations — are they tragic, are they comic? Or are they both? In any case much of the dialogue seems to suggest a heavy



Julianne Moore as Yelena and George Gaynes as Serebryakov in Louis Malle's *Vanya on 42nd Street*

session of Whingers Anonymous.

*Uncle Vanya* does not stand alone, being the first of the three plays which, taken together, constitute Chekhov's fully mature drama. The other items in this trilogy are *Three Sisters* and *The Cherry Orchard*, which provide a comparably downbeat spectacle. These are the most culturally transferable of Chekhov's plays (*The Seagull* is in many ways a special case) and they all pose the same problem — as do Chekhov's mature short stories. How can material so pathetically desultory, so seemingly depressing, prove so magnificently exhilarating in its impact? Other masters of the downbeat idiom may be eminently worth reading: Greene, Waugh etcetera. But exhilarate, to the same degree, they certainly do not.

Though it is true that Chekhov's private letters are often little masterpieces of creative querulousness, he

did not, as a man, much resemble his own characters. He was no cringing wimp, even though so much of his work — fiction and drama alike — seems to imply an acceptance of Henry Thoreau's thesis that "the mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation".

This standpoint throws him into vivid contrast with virtually all the most significant dramatists among his predecessors. It is noisy lives, lived by larger-than-life heroes, that Aeschylus and his successors parade on their stage. As for comedy writers, they have tended to suggest, from Aristophanes onwards, that cheerful bliss might be the common lot — though only after their final lines are spoken. The Chekhov formula differs from both these models. He deals in characters whom most theatregoers can recognise as less heroic, less eccentric, less significant than they probably consider themselves to be.

Now we begin to sense the nature of his appeal. Harassed less by famine, pestilence and foreign invaders than were the denizens of 5th-century BC Athens, but more harassed by other things, such as the horrors of commuting, parking, form-filling, pacifying computers and bureaucrats, your modern theatregoer finds it more fulfilling to cathartically be purged of Chekhovian boredom and triviality than of the traditional pity and terror invoked by Aristotle.

Where entertainment on a more humble level is concerned it seems evident from colour supplements, television documentaries and the like that consumers of these products particularly wish to be informed about those who chance to seem either substantially more, or less, fortunate than themselves. This emerges from the tendency to veer between such topics as on the one hand, billionaires' sexual involve-

ments, and, on the other hand, the misfortunes of children in war zones.

It was the former interest that pre-Chekhov drama had chiefly catered for — the audience which wished to contemplate the larger-than-life and the notionally enviable. But by the 1890s, when Chekhov reached his creative prime, it was time to pander to the opposite appetite. Boredom and irritation, rather than violence and ecstasy, can be the staple of many lives. There was a delicious shock in having this demonstrated so potently and with such sympathetic insight, but with so light a touch.

The mature Chekhov was offering a level of reality which earlier playwrights had largely ignored. And he made it possible for theatre-goers to indulge in the luxury of patronising condescension. Outclassed though one might suppose oneself by an Oedipus and Jocasta, by a Romeo and Juliet, by a Faust and Mephistopheles — not to mention Siegfried, Brunnhilde and their like — one could smile affectionately at the squirmings of an Uncle Vanya, a Professor Serebryakov, a Sonya.

Subjected to this unfamiliar and milder variety of dramatic catharsis, Chekhov's audiences learnt to savour the first trailer body of drama which had no air of being purpose-built. Here were no well-made plays, no neatly contrived chains of episodes. The spectator no longer had to follow plots tidier than life acted out by characters who were goal-orientated, beyond the norm. This has commonly been a feature of pre-Chekhov drama even when lack of purpose has itself been a major theme. Like Uncle Vanya, Shakespeare's Hamlet fails to take decisive action. But much of the play is devoted to demonstrating this very failure in an explicit manner foreign to the Russian master of hinted implications and silences.

Earlier dramatists have tended to manipulate their characters obtrusively, by comparison with Chekhov. The Greek tragedies manipulated their very gods, either to demonstrate their awesome power or to cast discreet doubt on their more savage proceedings. But Chekhov was so well organised, technically, that he could seem engagingly disorganised. His characters appear to take over, imposing their own inconsequentialities. Nothing in Chekhov seems highly focused or wholehearted.

Plots, character, the very capacity to dither seem to come and go as they will, and to wander about the stage as creatively as they wander about the world. To the latest wandering Vanyas, Celts and Antipodeans, the very best of luck.

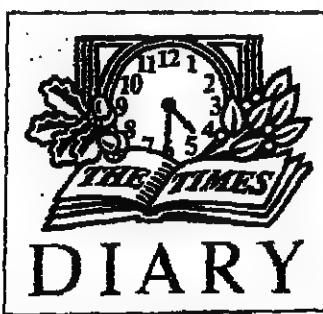
Ronald Hingley edited and translated The Oxford Chekhov in nine volumes, has written two biographies of Chekhov and is Emeritus Fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford.

## Home truth

THE MEMBER for Billericay may have come in for some stick recently over restoring her Elizabethan home in a "Tudor-bethan" fashion but Teresa Gorman is in good company. Next week the National Trust will be under fire for its restoration of Uppark, the West Sussex home burnt down in 1939.

A BBC documentary to be shown on Monday night will question the wisdom of the £20 million restoration of the 17th-century house, which will reopen to the public this summer. Much of the documentary centres on whether Uppark has now become a pastiche. The BBC's head of documentaries Edward Mirzoeff, who made the programme, says National Trust staff had forceful opinions: "There is a strong feeling among many employees that the trust was wrong to restore it in such a manner. They are not prepared to say this publicly."

National Trust conservator Catherine MacCarthy does express doubts in the documentary: "If you still have large amounts of contents left, then perhaps you would not be



creating a fake — or only half a fake."

Paula Weidinger, author of a recent book on the trust, is less restrained. "I think that most people feel that it will be an exquisite Disney creation. It is a very wonderful... fake."

### Pelican do

THE MARQUESS of Bath is in a state of considerable excitement. Nothing to do with wilelets, pony tails or new age murals this time. A bird on his Longleat estate has broken a record by producing what is

believed to be the first pelican chick to have been hatched in this country.

Scientific breakthrough this surely is, but the creature is nothing to shout about, says a spokesman for the specialist bird gardens, where the fertile pelican egg was kept under controlled conditions: "He looks and even sounds a bit like a pterodactyl. We hatched him out under a broody hen but when he came out of the shell she took just one look and took an instant dislike to him. He is so ugly, who could blame her?"

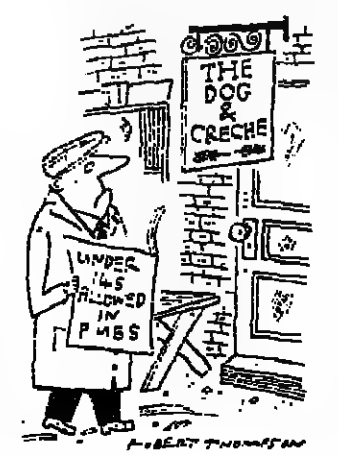
### Harnessed

THE RACING wedding of the year will have Garrison Savannah as the guest of honour. Mark Pitman, who took the horse to victory in the Cheltenham Gold Cup in 1991, will trot up to the altar in June. His mother is the formidable

Lambourn trainer Jenny Pitman. Pitman fits in to marry Natasha Cowen abroad, somewhere hot. But they plan to have a huge party in England for racing cronies closer to the stables. "It will be nice to get Garrison Savannah and some of the old favourites along to provide a bit of cabaret," he says. "A few informal races, perhaps."

### Honey trap

A BILLY BU'NTER of a burglar broke into a Richmond patisserie for a sugary feast the other day.



Gluttony, sadly, proved to be his undoing. Stuart Walshe, 18, guzzled £5 worth of Coin De Paris's finest cakes and then tried to make his escape. But the window through which he struggled to squeeze was too small.

Police officers arrived and found him stuck, like Winnie the Pooh in the rabbit hole after the episode with the honey. Walshe pleaded guilty to burglary at Richmond Magistrates' Court and is awaiting sentencing.

● The closure of Barnwell Manor, Princess Alice's family home in Northamptonshire, by the Duke of Gloucester brings to mind once again the Prince of Wales's nickname for Kensington Palace. He has always called it the "naughty heap" because so many aunts, including Princess Margaret, have lived there. Now his great-aunt can be added to the list.

### Fin excuse

WEATHERMAN Michael Fish has become the president of a whiffy-sounding dining club: the Gloucester Fish Club, launched yesterday. Shoals of people with fishy names have been recruited to join. The founder of the club, Som-



Michael Fish: casting about for scaly characters

erset Moore, trawled through phone books to net 300 fishy names and came up with a Haddock, Roach, Salmon, Hake, Pollock, Herring and Eel.

Moore says the idea for the club came to him in the bath. "Fun, friendship and fish," he says. "That's what it is all about. Darius Guppy would be very welcome to

P.H.S





## A CHURCH UNMILITANT

Collective worship in schools deserves stronger support

The Archbishop of York's remarks about collective worship in schools this week were a gift to those in the education establishment who would like to see an end to religious assemblies. Dr John Habgood was right to point out in his speech to the North of England Education Conference that "the system is not working as it is" and to call for ceremonies of a higher quality. But his support for "less worship" in schools was defeatist. Instead of offering leadership, the second most senior churchman in the land seemed to be sounding the retreat.

Arranging collective worship can present schools with problems. A measure of expertise is required of those officiating; in areas where other faiths predominate, a daily act of Christian worship can seem insensitive. The requirement of the 1944 Education Act that schools hold a daily religious assembly was reinforced by the 1988 Education Reform Act. An Education Department circular last year advised that Jesus Christ should be accorded "a special status" in such ceremonies. Yet inspections suggest that the majority of schools do not comply with the law.

This may always have been so. Head teachers have long complained that lack of facilities or of religious knowledge prevents them from fulfilling the legal requirement. Most Education Secretaries — with the honourable exception of John Patten — have let the matter be. What is new is the resignation which many in the Church seem to feel about school worship. Last year, the Evangelical Alliance, which claims to represent one million churchgoers, argued that religious assemblies should be held only twice a week and should be made entirely voluntary. Dr Habgood's speech seems to share the premise that the Church must lower its expectations and adapt to

secularisation rather than confront it. The Anglican leadership should not equivocate on what ought to be a straightforward matter. Collective worship in schools should not involve proselytisation. But it can open the minds of young people to the possibilities of faith and an appreciation of communal religion. Equally, every school needs a ceremonial structure to shape its purpose and identity. However multi-cultural Britain has become, the moral anchor of this country remains Judeo-Christian. A nation can be pluralist and yet still remain true to its cultural origins. This should be expressed in the way our education system is organised.

A confident Church would be celebrating the Christian traditions of this country and doing all it can to help schools to meet legal requirements. To officiate at assembly scarcely requires a degree in theology. The Church could assist the new Teacher Training Agency to bring head teachers and their staff up to levels of competence. Where necessary, local clergymen might make their services available to schools. In many cases, the relationship between schools and their parishes could be much stronger.

As it is, the Church is signalling just the opposite: that it regards the current system of collective worship in schools as unworkable. If the Anglican leadership feels unequal to this relatively basic task, it must be asked how it will respond to the far greater challenges ahead. At present, the Church is behaving like a company that expects eventually to go into liquidation. It seems embarrassed by its position as the established faith of the land. It trims too much, asserts too little. The Church of Cranmer and Laud should not so easily surrender its missionary instinct.

## FUGITIVE FIGURES

How many escaped convicts are ever recaptured?

The embattled Director-General of the Prison Service, Derek Lewis, points out that — contrary to the impression created in recent weeks — the number of escapes from closed prisons has fallen in the past two years. The agency has produced tables of figures which show a record of success in reducing the rate of escapes by almost 50 per cent since 1992. What these statistics do not address is a question which is giving somewhat more cause for concern this weekend: how good is the rate of recapture of escaped convicts?

Since the Prison Service became a separate agency in April 1993, it has made considerable strides in public accountability. This new transparency was evidenced by its first annual report issued in November 1993 which contained a precise breakdown of the alarming rise in escape rates from 1989-90 to 1991-92, of prisoners from jails and under escort. The report also specified a plan of action for halting that rise. Judging by the lower escape figures for 1993-94, this seems to have had some effect.

But this admirable openness included no data on how effective the system was at returning escapees to custody. Questioned on this point, the agency is able to offer an overall total for the last year: of the 389 prisoners who escaped from closed prisons between April 1992 and March 1993, only 48 were still at large by October 1993. It cannot give any corresponding statistics for past years although records of escapes have been held on a centralised computer since 1988.

One possible reason for this dearth of information is that the pursuing of prisoners who are on the run is a serious weak spot in the penal system. Whenever there is a break-

out from a closed prison, an alert is circulated to the control rooms of all police forces. This is followed by a monthly bulletin from the Scotland Yard National Information Bureau containing more detailed information and photographs.

Each fugitive is mentioned in the bulletin covering the month of the actual escape. Descriptions of the case then appear only in six monthly reviews of information. After a time, references to the escapee simply disappear. Whether his recapture remains a priority is up to the particular Chief Constable for the area. Such discretionary power is obviously influenced by how dangerous the convict is considered to be or possibly by how deep an antipathy exists between the fugitive and the police. What seems to be lacking is any systematic policy on how long attempts at recapture should continue, and how strictly they should be monitored.

Although the fact of each escape remains on the national computer, unless a criminal commits a fresh offence recapture can be evaded simply by lying low until interest dies down. Being able to survive without resorting to further crime often involves having access to considerable sums of money. It is not surprising therefore that since 1988, more than half of the escaped prisoners who remained at large for over a year had been convicted of drug offences — a particularly lucrative form of crime. Hunting for convicts on the run is an expensive and labour-intensive business which cannot be continued indefinitely. But that is no excuse for it to become haphazard: its rate of success or failure should be tabulated as rigorously as any other aspect of penal performance.

## 'CHILD OF THE CHAPEL ROYAL'

November 1695: the composer Henry Purcell dies, aged 36

Handel, not best known for his accomplishments, is reported to have said at a performance of his own oratorio *Jephtha* that "if Purcell had lived, he would have composed better music than this". It is a matter for sorrow that Henry Purcell, a composer whose native equal Britain has never since possessed, has not always been regarded with the same reverence in the land of his birth. But the tercentenary of Purcell's untimely death gives us occasion to celebrate with abandon his handsome genius. The Year of Purcell should also compel us to reflect on two questions that bear not just on our historical or documentary sense as a society, but also on our scale of musical values. Why has it taken us so long to recognise Purcell's true worth? And, more broadly, why has Britain failed to produce any composer of substance between the age of Purcell and the late 19th century?

The first question eludes easy response. Robert King, one of the country's most gifted conductors of Baroque music, writes in his recent study of the composer that history has still not accorded Purcell "this rightful place among the truly great composers". This may be because there is little detailed evidence of his life — as there was, say, of Mozart's — on which to romanticise. It may also be because Purcell's music succeeds best when played on period instruments: too many past performances have presented him in an unfamiliar 18th or 19th-century idiom.

Not since his own time has Purcell been treated as sympathetically as he is by today's period instrument orchestras. His wistful

music is today performed as it was written to be performed: audiences have responded with ardour. And the renaissance of the counter-tenor voice has brought to life again not just the melancholy temper of Purcell's music, but also the composer's magical method of word-setting. No one — not even Benjamin Britten — has put into music so deftly the inflections of the English language. It is not surprising that Britten once remarked that he had never realised, before he first met Purcell's music, "that words could be set with such ingenuity, such colour".

There remains the second question: why was there a musical "ice age" between Purcell and Sir Edward Elgar? It is puzzling, as Britain has been as richly endowed in 20th-century composers — Britten is but one example — as any other country with which it shares its musical traditions. Historians of music show that while composition of quality may have been scarce, British musical life, embodied in public concerts and performances, flourished in a manner more vigorous than anywhere but Vienna.

With its mercantile temperament, Britain's creativity found expression in the invention of devices, and the making of money and industry. Rich, and with an acquisitive curiosity, the country could afford to import the best: this was as true for composers as it was for tea. Purcell was a musician of his own time. He lived in the restless reigns of Charles II, James II, and William and Mary. It is no wonder that his composition is whimsical and daring. Let his music now illuminate our own age.

## Poor ambulance response record

From Mr Alan A. Meyer

Sir, In response to the deplorable death of Nasima Begum last July, the Health Secretary has stated that the need for widespread reform of London's emergency services must await a report from a team led by William Wells, Chairman of the South Thames (formerly South West Thames) Regional Health Authority (report, January 2). Her statement should be seen in its historical context.

The responsibility for providing Londoners with an ambulance service to meet "all reasonable needs" is imposed on the Health Secretary by statute: it is therefore her responsibility that since the *Marchioness* riverboat disaster of August 1989, when eight of the 17 ambulances called at 2am on a Sunday morning failed to arrive within 14 minutes, the service has continued its failure to meet its proper requirements.

In February 1993, at a time when ambulances were failing to arrive within 14 minutes in six out of every 15 "999" emergency cases, an independent inquiry into the collapse of the much-vaunted computerised dispatch system explicitly told the Health Secretary that the position in London would get worse if further accident and emergency departments were closed.

However, since then the Health Secretary has relentlessly pursued her proposals for "Making London Better", including one to close the accident unit at Bart's this month — almost certainly to be followed by its equivalent at Guy's.

In March 1993 the accident units at Westminster's two hospitals were closed, following the temporary closure (for a mere four years) of the one at St Stephen's. Some slight improvement in ambulance response time has been reported recently — now only approximately five people in every 15 "999" emergency cases have to wait more than 14 minutes — but deaths have almost certainly occurred amongst these patients. I believe that these can only be attributed to the Health Secretary's reckless pursuit of her health reform proposals.

Despite this dismal record, the awaited report is to come from the chairman of the very authority which has for many years had the overall responsibility, on the Health Secretary's behalf, for overseeing the performance of the London Ambulance Service. It is also noteworthy that the chief executive of the service, Mr Martin Gorham, is a former senior administrator in the South West Thames RHA.

Surely a fully independent inquiry would be more appropriate.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN MEYER  
(Legal Adviser, Westminster Hospitals Development Fund),  
Halsey Meyer Higgins (solicitors),  
10 Carver Street,  
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,  
January 3.

**Preserving archives**  
From Mr Geoffrey Hamilton  
Sir, Although the disposal of the Board of Trade Library's collection of parliamentary sessional papers, to which Dr Drew's letter refers (December 28), may be viewed with some regret, the nation's principal archival collection of these papers is secure in the British Library. Some gaps in the British Library's set were filled by volumes transferred from the Board of Trade.

It is unfortunate, but unavoidable, that the British Library's set of sessional papers is about to be placed in temporary storage away from Bloomsbury, where its availability on open shelves in the Official Publications Reading Room has been a particular convenience for readers. In due course the set will return to the new British Library, where one hopes it will again be fully accessible.

The sessional papers are well indexed, but their bibliographical complexity can often thwart attempts to use them fully. In these circumstances, the opportunity to check volumes at the shelf is invaluable, and the reader is not well served by a requirement to work solely through the indexes.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY HAMILTON,  
18a Chiswick End,  
Meldreth, Cambridgeshire.

## A bigger scrum

From Mr Graham Bates

Sir, Now we have a 1st XV in the European Union (report, January 2). I am puzzled at the likely position the United Kingdom may play.

I cannot see us as a member of the pack, certainly not one of the props, and we are hardly a centre. Outside-half suggests a suitably semi-detached position and gives many opportunities to boot most things into touch.

Perhaps, however, we should volunteer to take on the captaincy from any position.

Yours faithfully,  
G. BATES,  
6 Prince William Road, Oundle,  
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire,  
January 3.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## Prison security and accountability

From Dr Philip Seager, FRCPsych

Sir, Judge Tumin reports (details, January 5) that he felt so concerned about security at Parkhurst prison that he took the unusual step of sending in an urgent report before completing the total visit.

I was Director of the NHS Health Advisory Service (1987-91) and on a few occasions did the same thing because of my concern about the psychiatric and geriatric services on which we were empowered to report.

Direct urgent reports were sent to the private office of the minister concerned — there were approximately nine during my time — and no response was ever received. I spoke to the permanent secretary and also to the ministers: promises were made but never kept.

It seemed to me bad management, especially for the visiting team to have no support for their concerns about particular circumstances. At least Judge Tumin now knows that the Home Secretary had received his preliminary report.

Yours sincerely,  
PHILIP SEAGER,  
9 Blacka Moor Road,  
Dore, Sheffield, South Yorkshire,  
January 5.

From Mr Martin Hall

Sir, One of the disquieting features of the present state of difficulties in our prisons is the apparent compulsive readiness of the Prison Officers' Association to criticise the senior management of the Prison Service whenever another "local problem" occurs.

In your thoughtful and timely call (leading article, January 5) for a rebuilding of public confidence you highlight the urgent tasks facing the Home Secretary, the service's Director-General and individual prison governors. May I suggest that a cessation of the POA's constant media sniping against senior management would help restore this confidence.

In the final analysis, it is the POA's own members who have responsibility for the maintenance of security and good order in our prisons.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN HALL,  
(Assistant Governor,  
HM Boreas Prison, 1963-66),  
40 Grange Walk, SE1,  
January 5.

From Mr Ian Kelcey

Sir, I am acting for a client who is on remand awaiting trial on serious charges. The case is due to be heard in

**Romania balance sheet**

From Mr Nicolae Ratiu

Sir, Can one find anything positive about Romania, five years after the overthrow of Ceausescu?

True, private enterprise now accounts for 30 per cent of GDP and 30 per cent of foreign trade. Since the March 1994 agreement with the International Monetary Fund the currency has stabilised, and thanks to measures imposed by the Romanian National Bank inflation appears to have been reduced from some 300 per cent to about 70 per cent per annum. There is an element of currency convertibility. Some Western investors are now considering Romania.

Tourism is increasing. Romanians, if they can afford it, can travel inside and outside the country. Romania has become a member, or associate member, of Western European institutions.

**Chechen crisis**

From Lady Smedley

Sir, Dr George Hewitt (letter, December 31) says that all those who remain silent in their response to Yeltsin's Christmas adventure must share the guilt for the massacre. I have been outraged and horrified at this time of traditional good will by the sight on my TV screen of Russian bombs obliterating Grozny, the capital city of Chechnia. I am even more galled by my own impotence to do anything about it.

Where are our leaders, the leaders of Europe, of the free world? Why have they not spoken out loud and clear that such aggression is not acceptable in Chechnia or anywhere else at any time?

Yours sincerely,  
BERYL SMEDLEY,  
11a Beehive Lane,  
Ferring, Worthing, West Sussex,  
January 3.

## Last resting place

From Ms Louisa Young

Sir, Jo Andrews ("The race to save Scott's base camp", January 5) is mistaken to think that the bodies of Scott and his companions remain where they were left on the Ross Ice Shelf. If I may quote from my own forthcoming biography of Scott's widow Kathleen, my grandmother:

"The bodies are no longer there: the movement of the ice will have brought them gradually north, and in about 1985 their cairn will have broken off as an iceberg, sending them out into the Antarctic seas like a frozen Viking burial."

This view is widely held by authorities on Antarctica.

Yours,  
LOUISA YOUNG,  
42 Etheldreda Road, W12.

a town some 2½ hours' travelling distance away. It has a prison, and the trial is to last some three months.

Common sense, and a desire to achieve the Home Secretary's objective of value for money, should have ensured that he was held in the prison in the town where the trial is to be held, yet despite several requests, the Prison Service has decided that my client shall be transported each day with another defendant to and from Bristol.

Other defendants are on remand at differing locations around the country. Four prison officers may be required to escort my client to his place of trial, involving at least five hours' travel per day.

With the other defendants at least 12 prison officers are likely to be travelling on escort duties. Apart from the cost, it must surely pose a security risk. If this is common practice it is amazing that there are not more prison escapes.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN KELCEY,  
Kelcey and Hall (solicitors),  
2nd Floor, Fosters Chambers,  
17 Small Street, Bristol, Avon,  
January 5.

From Vice-Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly

Sir, When one of HM ships runs aground the commanding officer and navigator are normally judged by their peers in a court martial, after a board of inquiry has established the facts. I do not recollect in such cases as have occurred that either the Defence Secretary or the First Sea Lord have been asked to resign.

Surely a prison break is the responsibility of the governor (commanding officer) and his head of security (navigator). Their failure, if any, should be judged by others who know well the vast load of responsibility they carry and the difficulties they face.

Yours etc,  
LOUIS LE BAILLY,  
Garlands House,  
St Tudy, Bodmin, Cornwall,  
January 5.

From Mr Trevor Williams

Sir, Is it possible that Derek Lewis, Director-General of the Prison Service, who recently had an inflation-beating pay rise, had some secret escape clauses written into his contract?

Yours faithfully,  
TREVOR WILLIAMS,  
34 Carston Close, Lee, SE12,  
January 5.

There is a parliament and opposition parties are permitted, yet newspapers are barely tolerated, even though people can speak freely.

Every other aspect of Romania since December 1989 has been a betrayal of the hopes and dreams of the population. Examples are state-delayed privatisation, derisory Western investment, officially condoned corruption, scant agrarian reform, a chaotic health service, state-controlled television and a 50 per cent drop in the national standard of living.

We can only hope that the few positive elements can be built on to deliver the future the Romanian people have long suffered for.

Yours faithfully,  
NICOLAE RATIU  
(President, World Union of Free Romanians — UK),  
54-62 Regent Street, W1,  
January 4.

## Building new roads

From Sir Peter Lazarus

Sir, I was astounded to read your report of December 30, headed "Roads chief pledges new regime will be bloody", of an interview with Mr Lawrence Haynes, Chief Executive of the new Highways Agency.

For three years, from 1982-85, I was responsible for this road-building "bureaucracy", as you call it, which is now to be overhauled. No doubt it could have been better managed: perfection is never achieved. But I am in no doubt that, under close supervision by ministers and senior officials at the centre, it was effective.

I should be glad to know of the basis for the belief that it will be possible to slash spending, cut staff and banish congestion. It was certainly not true, ten years ago, that anyone knew how to build roads that would last for "even 80 years". I know, because I asked the best available experts. Is all of this just boasting?

Yours faithfully,  
PETER LAZARUS  
(Permanent Secretary,  
Department of Transport, 1982-85,  
28 Woodside Avenue, N6.

## Ordeal by television

From Mrs Pauline A. Mills

Sir, Someone once said: "I find television very educational. When someone turns it on I go into another room and read a book." The offerings on television this Christmas (Media, January 4) had me doing just that.

Yours faithfully,  
PAULINE A. MILLS,  
34 Holmfield Avenue,  
Stoneygate, Leicester.

Weekend Money letters, page 31

## Time to treasure imperial echoes

From Mr John Colvin

Sir, The great, dazzling, baroque edifice of Empire has crumbled, but more than deserves, demands memorial. The museum envisaged in Jan Morris's article on New Year's Eve, "Now that the sun is setting", is a wonderful proposal, and her presence with John Hemming of the Royal Geographical Society as trustees would guarantee not only the rigour of our history, but its glory and panache.

The Millennium Fund could have no finer cause.  
Your obedient servant,  
JOHN COLVIN,  
12a Evelyn Mansions,  
Carlisle Place, SW1,  
January 1.

From Miss Kusoom Vadgama

Sir, Jan Morris, in her excellent comments on the imperial past, makes reference to "... fellow subjects from all the Empire, [who] had fought together in a noble cause". She thereby gives a hint of the little-known subject of the Empire's people who made considerable impact on the British way of life here at the same time as "the people of these islands distributed across the earth their ideas, their energy and their sense of adventure..."

In the year 1997 the last major British colony, Hong Kong, will be handed over to China. It will also be the year that will mark the 50th anniversary of India's independence. It is a perfect year in which to recognise the activities of those who were ruled by the Empire by way of the opening of a permanent museum housing every aspect of their social, cultural, economic, political and educational influence on the rulers.

Faithfully yours,  
KUSOOM VADGAMA,  
808 Finchley Road, NW11.

From Dr Mary Tiffen

Sir, Jan Morris has come up with a really imaginative suggestion for commemorating our heritage. It was perhaps inevitable that the sympathy for the birth of freedom in new states should lead to denigration of the achievements of the British imperial age, which has perhaps sapped the pride and confidence with which we face the future.

It is time now for a reassessment. Service overseas was a channel for idealism and for enterprise. Despite the inevitable mistakes of many and the brutality of some, the legacy of the young men and women who took part, and who often worked incredibly hard in circumstances that would appal us today, has lasted in institutions, religion, language, scientific and technical advance, and trade.

Anyone who has worked abroad in India, Africa or elsewhere knows that many people there feel that this is part of their history as well as ours, shaping their society as did the Norman conquest ours, or Napoleon's that of many continental countries.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY TIFFEN,  
Parsonage House, Tower Hill Road,  
Crewkerne, Somerset.

From Mr Alan Forward

Sir, Jan Morris quotes George Santayana, the American philosopher, on those "sweet, just, boyish masters" who ruled the Empire in its decline. As one such — from 1955 to 1963 I served Her Majesty in Uganda — I greatly welcome Jan Morris's call to establish an Empire museum. There is certainly no justness in the British people's alienation from their past by the false guilt propagated for so many years by those on the "liberal left".

In today's unstable world it is now very clear that we, in the course of our policy of leading so many countries to independence, gave them high standards of justice, peace and security, together with such economic development as was permitted by the constraints of geography.

It may be hard to overcome the debilitating forces of alienation, but let us be guided by Sir Winston Churchill's vision: "So much power running to waste, such a lever to control the natural forces of Africa... what fun to make the immortal Nile begin its journey by diving through a turbine!"

The Owen Falls dam at Jinja in Uganda was opened by the Queen in 1954. Let us hope that Her Majesty may be invited to open a stimulating museum dedicated to the record of our imperial achievements and, yes, of our mistakes, at Bristol in or before the year 2000, perhaps including a model of that massive engineering achievement.

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN FORWARD,  
The Linds, Foyntington, Dorset.

From Mr Geoffrey Hinton

Sir, "... certainly the greatest British contribution to world history?"

There are strong grounds for arguing that the Industrial Revolution, rather than the Empire, was Britain's greatest and most significant contribution to world history, for its effects have been sustained in virtually all countries of the globe, immeasurably changing almost all human life for good and ill.

Surely we need a Museum of the Industrial Revolution.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY HINTON,  
1 Northmoore Place,  
Northmoore Road, Oxford.







# JOE SLOVO



**Slovo with Nelson Mandela in Cape Town in 1990**

A. H. CHADDER



Harvey Chadder, front row, centre, with the English amateur team in Glasgow, April 1928

**DR. GRIFFITH PUGH**

Korean War, to set up a division of human physiology at its laboratories at Holly Hill, Hampstead, to study the

**The 1953 expedition on Everest and Griffith Pugh, left, with his daughter on his return**

Griffith Pugh is survived by his wife Josephine, whom he married in 1939, three sons and a daughter.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

[illegible]

innings. He played what was probably the finest innings of his career, and was watchful, patient, and skilful in all that he did. There was a period of anxiety when Hammond got out, playing a little over a ball and kicking it back for Oldfield to grab it and put the wicket down before Hammond could recover his ground, for, had Hendren failed, one could visualize Grinnett and Blackie going through the rest of the side. The pitch was not perfect, the ball every now and then keeping low, but Hendren rose to the occasion in great style and actually went for the bowling. As it happened, this turned out to be the right policy in the immediate circumstances. Hendren knocked Grinnett off and then began hitting Blackie, much to that bowler's surprise, and before a ball that came through quick and low bowled Hendren all danger was past.

It was a great match in every respect, but, greatest of all, it showed the immense value of team work and was a triumph for combination and the judicious blending of youth and experience.



## NEWS

## Jail staff accused of obstruction

The head of the prison service last night accused the Prison Officers Association of obstructing the internal inquiry into the escape of three dangerous men from Parkhurst top security jail. Derek Lewis, the director-general of the Prison Service, further strained relations between prison service managers and the union with a statement issued after a visit to the Isle of Wight prison. Pages 1, 3

## Yeltsin orders new attack

An impatient President Yeltsin ordered defence and intelligence heads at a meeting of the presidential security council to press ahead with the one-month Russian offensive in Chechnya and deliver him a speedy victory. Pages 1, 10

## Meningitis death

Chelsea Greet, aged 14 weeks, has become the latest victim of meningitis. She died hours after being allowed home by doctors in Wolverhampton. Page 1

## Pay claims

Further evidence of rising executive pay in the privatised utilities was published by Labour Party leaders. Page 2

## Police fear

The worst fear for police hunting the three fugitives is that they are hiding in an isolated house with terrified hostages. Page 3

## Parents go free

Three parents who turned vigilante and kidnapped a teenager accused of bullying their children walked free from court. Page 5

## Elephant destroyed

The decision to destroy an Asian elephant at a wildlife and leisure park provoked outrage among animal welfare charities. Page 6

## Playful Catholics brought to book

America's Roman Catholics have sex more often and more "playfully" than do the country's Protestants and Jews, according to a book by a Catholic priest calculated to shake some shibboleths about religiously inspired guilt. Page 14

## Warning to teachers

The Education Secretary warned teachers not to flout the law on daily assemblies. Page 7

## Hunt stepped up

A helicopter and tracker dogs searched for a British ecologist in Madagascar. Page 8

## Air crash inquiry

The Algerian pilots of the Boeing cargo jet that crashed near houses in Coventry had made four night flights in poor weather. Page 9

## Peace at hand

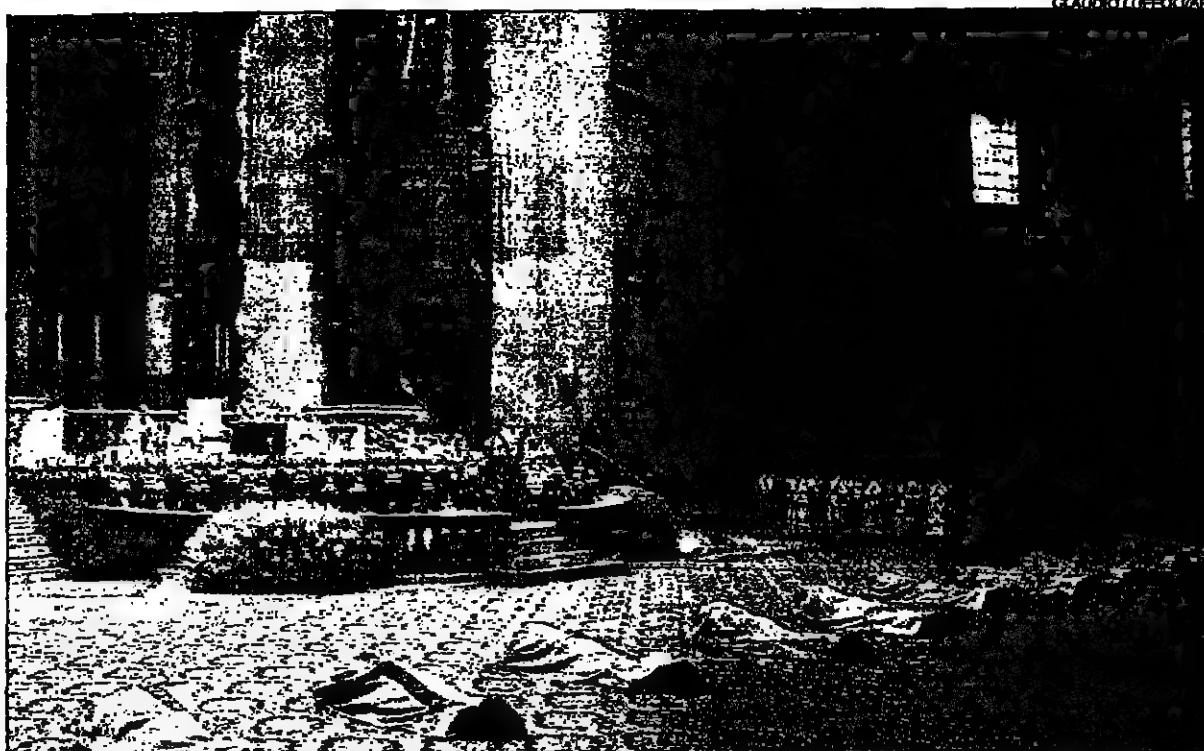
A formal ceasefire takes effect tomorrow in Sri Lanka. Page 11

## Man most likely

Nicolas Sarkozy de Nagy Bocsa, a wonder boy with an appetite for power, is juggling three important portfolios. Page 13

## On the third day

Harmony reigned on Day Three of the Republican Revolution in Washington. Page 15



Bishops prostrating themselves in front of the Pope at the Epiphany Mass celebrated in St Peter's, Rome. The Pontiff said he hoped the new year would bring closer dialogue with the Orthodox Church.

## OPINION

A church unwilling: However multi-cultural Britain has become, the moral anchor of this country remains Judeo-Christian. Page 19

## PAPERS

Yeltsin could use a strong reminder that democracies should strive to use massive force as a last resort, not an opening line. — USA Today

## COLUMNS

Michael Portillo: Today's political leaders must not abdicate their responsibility to continue improving the quality of government. Yet the process must be balanced by a respect for those core elements in our institutions that are constant and crucial to their survival. Page 16

Philip Howard: Lord Charteris's observation about the Duchess of York carries lessons. Page 16

## ECONOMY

Economy: Consumer credit hit a record high in November, according to Bank of England figures 1.2 per cent up on October's total of £541 million. Page 21

Pensions: State pensions in Europe are becoming dangerously underfunded and could pay out less than people expect, according to a report by the Federal Trust. Page 21

## FOOTBALL

Football: Dreams are fulfilled — and some nightmares realised — as part-time footballers take on the professionals in today's FA Cup third round. Pages 39, 40

## VISION

Candid camera: how Attenborough's men filmed *The Private Life of Plants*. Page 3

Years before bedtimes: how to survive hiring a nanny. Page 5

Up for the Cup: Radio 5 Live recalls the giant-killers of past years. Page 6

## WEEKEND

Commuter captives: Traveling up to 50 miles to work, and back, is costly, tiring, uncomfortable and on the increase. Guy Walters investigates reasons for the daily grind. Pages 1, 3

Gardening with zest: Stephen Anderton on the lost art of growing oranges. Page 9

Fetters of the past: Why the world's leading art dealers are gathering in London this weekend for sales of original prints. Pages 10, 11

Encounter: Daniel Johnson on why the time is ripe for a revival of the neglected genre of the serious literary magazine. Page 14

## WEEKEND ARTS

Remarkable chapter: When *An Inspector Calls* closes in the West End on January 21, more than 350,000 people will have seen it. Benedict Nightingale uncovers the secrets of its extraordinary success. Page 5

250 million request: "The Covent Garden boss beamed at his own generosity as he assured the Great British Public that they were getting a bargain." Richard Morrison on the race for lottery cash. Page 5

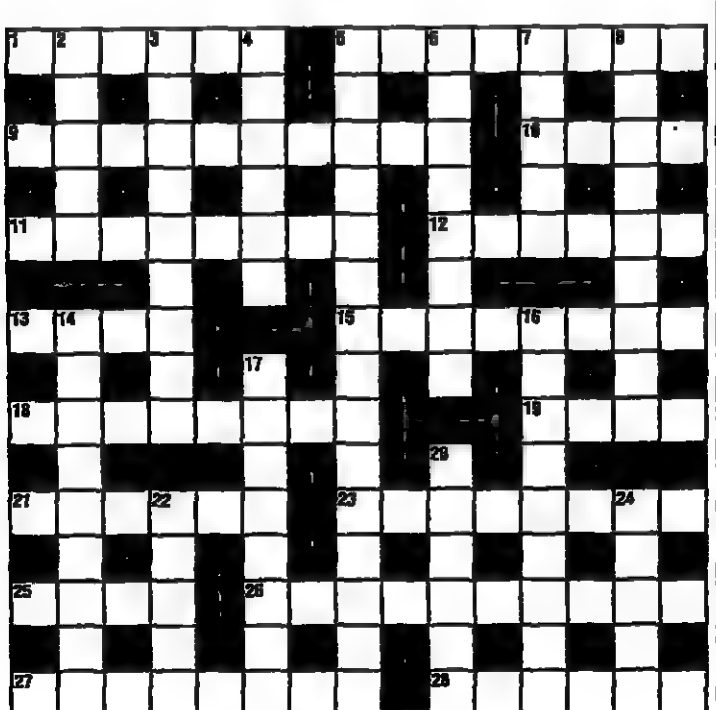
Home entertainment: *Schindler's List* and *A Star Is Born* on video: the American pianist Murray Perahia with the definitive Chopin Ballades on record, while the Kirov Opera stands still with *Sadko*. Pages 6, 7

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,746



A bottle of Knocknardo, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9JD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



- ACROSS**
- Exaggerate explosion (4-2).
  - Newcomer striking phoney note (8).
  - Lump of butter is almost set in cake shop (10).
  - Cocky-sounding weather fore-caster (4).
  - Skate around, always excited (8).
  - We're told to invest in mushrooms — they give us strength (6).
  - Letter from one in a position to get up game, say (4).
  - Vehicle route controller? (8).
  - Article based perhaps round Welsh chapel (8).
  - Go left or right (4).
  - Vessel finds a way back from frozen area (6).
  - Charles left the Round Tower (8).
  - Mud about on the motorway (4).
  - Scandinavian runner, for example? (6,4).
  - His team leaves the field — he swears (8).
- DOWN**
- Fields available at last for rent (5).
  - Attempt to cover up goalless defeat (9).
  - Produce impasse almost through-out (6).
  - Member has to resign himself to becoming a steward here (10,5).
  - Press down on shoulder (8).
  - Bible in this Latin causes confusion (5).
  - Kitchen gadget — can one per shift suffice? (3-6).
  - Discharge about four in the administration (9).
  - Refuse here to provide asylum for young animals (6-3).
  - I speak evil of white man, they say (8).
  - Credit is twice what is needed for an emergency (6).
  - Stay round blue lake (5).
  - See the point and take (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,740

**SPICES NONEVENT**  
CORN FLOWER GASP  
FLAMINGO ANNUAL  
TICK REDESIGN  
OVERCAST AYAH  
E L A B A R  
GRAVEL LAUREATE  
SEOK M QU  
PIER WHISPERING  
O S E N E O E  
UNDERDOG REMARD

**COARSE BUSSTOP**  
C O L O U R I  
C A S A L S O U N D B I T E  
K O A H E A B C  
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LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: Mrs S Smith, Hednesford, Staffs; J E Loader, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex; M R Knox, Bothwell; W H Grimdie, Belfast; P Chappell, Swindon.

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## TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by five code.

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## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA roadwatch information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by five code.

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East of London (M25 to M75)	800

## HOURS OF DARKNESS

**TODAY**

Sun sets	5:05 am
Moon sets	11:56 pm

**YOMORROW**

Sun sets	5:05 am
Moon sets	11:56 pm

## HIGH TIDES

**TODAY**

London Bridge	5:20
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MELVYN MARCKUS 22

Saatchi & Saatchi isn't working, says Our City Editor



ANNE ASHWORTH 27

How banks profit from bank holiday delays



SPORT 34-40

How Barry Fry inspired a Blues revival

WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES  
Page 37

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JANUARY 7 1995

## Credit surge points to new confidence

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CONSUMER borrowing increased by £677 million in November — the largest increase in any month since the Bank of England started compiling figures in April 1993. In October, consumer credit was up £541 million.

The figures persuaded some economists that gloom about the behaviour of consumers facing higher taxes and little growth in their incomes had been exaggerated.

Adam Cole, an economist with James Capel UK, described yesterday's credit figures as "hugely strong". He said: "Consumers are currently seeing little income growth as a result of low pay settlements and last year's tax increases. But the signs are that they are increasingly confident enough to maintain consumption by borrowing."

Financial markets, however, dismissed the new, comprehensive figures on consumer credit from the Bank showing that lending by banks, building societies, retailers, insurance companies and other specialist lenders has continued to accelerate. Signs of higher borrowing contradict other indications that consumer confidence has been weakening.

Other anecdotal evidence supports a picture of increased willingness to finance spending through credit. Barclaycard reported that spending on its cards was 9 per cent up in December compared with a year ago, a slight acceleration from the 8.5 per cent year-on-year rise in November.

Yesterday's stronger than expected credit figures fly in the face of other indicators such as the Gallup poll which showed declining consumer confidence in November and official figures for retail sales and housing market transactions that month, which showed a flat picture. Furthermore, yesterday's figures for car sales in December showed another weak month with sales down 8.3 per cent compared with December 1993.

The trend in car sales began to decline last April, when the first of the Kenneth Clarke tax increases took effect. Economists noted that they could take another knock when a second tranche of tax hikes takes place this April.

Consumer credit can be used only as a secondary economic indicator because it is difficult to tell why consumers make more or less use of credit cards and other forms of borrowing. Ian Shepherdson, UK economist at HSBC Markets, said: "Increased use of credit can be a sign of im-

proved confidence but it could just as easily reflect the abundance of cheap credit deals around at the moment." He noted that actual indicators of consumer activity — such as car sales — suggest that confidence is weakening.

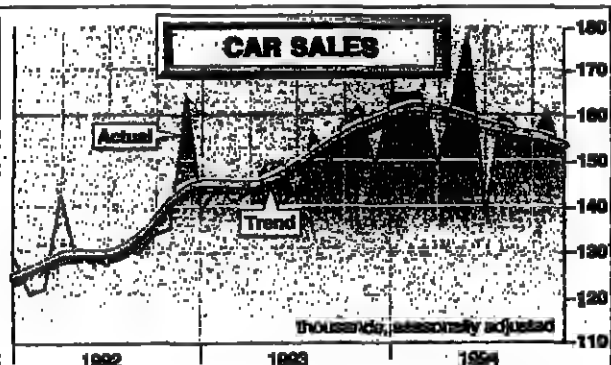
In addition, the rise in consumer credit of £677 million in November has to be put in the context of total outstanding consumer credit of about £56 billion. The increase on October was just 1.2 per cent.

Within November's consumer credit figures, lending on credit cards rose by £156 million compared with an increase of £91 million in October.

Mortgage lending, by far the largest element of borrowing, rose to £1.66 billion in November compared with £1.56 billion in October. This was an increase of only 0.4 per cent, the same as was seen in October.

The rate of growth in mortgage lending over the past three, six and 12-month periods has remained unchanged at about 5.5 per cent, showing that borrowers in the housing market are no more confident. □ US non-farm payrolls in November showed the largest rise since October 1987 and America's unemployment rate fell to 5.4 per cent in December, the lowest rate since July 1990; according to figures released yesterday by the US Labour Department. A total of 256,000 jobs were created outside the farms sector in December after a revised jump of 488,000 in November.

Financial markets interpreted the jobs statistics as a strong argument in favour of another rise in US interest rates when the Federal Open Market Committee meets at the end of January.



Car sales slump, page 22



Sparkling result: Michael Guthrie, chairman of BrightReasons, backed by Graham Lane, top finance director, and Ivan Taylor, managing director, celebrates the restaurant's rise in operating profits to £6 million, from £3.5 million, in the year to September 24

## Lucas fined \$18.5m in US

By NEIL BENNETT  
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

LUCAS Industries, the car and aircraft components manufacturer, has been fined \$18.5 million by the US Government after admitting that its employees falsified inspection records at one of its main defence factories in Utah.

Staff at Lucas Western, its US defence aviation subsidiary, failed to carry out quality audits on components and then signed certificates that the audits had been carried out. As a result the company fined sub-standard components into a gearbox that it makes for the US Navy's F-18 jet fighters.

The gearboxes control all the jet's electrical and hydraulic systems. Each aircraft is fitted with two. Frank Turner, the managing director of Lucas's aerospace division, insisted yesterday that there was no evidence that any gearbox had caused a jet to crash.

Lucas has negotiated the fine, which also covers legal expenses, after an 18-month investigation by the Government. The settlement must be approved by a federal court in Los Angeles next week. Lucas still faces being sued by the US Navy for any damage suffered from using the sub-standard gearboxes, although the jets fitted with them are still flying.

Lucas Western discovered that its inspection procedures were inadequate in February 1993, and informed the US Navy. The US Government took an interest in June when it discovered sub-standard components during an inspection. This was followed by a government raid on Lucas's offices in Los Angeles and Utah three months later which unearthed the inadequate inspection documents.

Lucas said that the cost of the fine would be covered by the £87 million provision it took last year, and that it had established new auditing and inspection procedures throughout the aerospace division.

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## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES			
FT-SE 100	3065.0	(+32.7)	
Yield	4.52%		
FT-SE All share	1515.14	(+12.07)	
Nikkei	19519.48	(-86.65)	
Dow Jones	3873.13	(+22.21)	
S&P Composite	461.70	(+1.36)	

US RATE			
Federal Funds	6.25%	(8.75%)	
Long Bond	9.50%	(9.50%)	
Yield	7.86%	(7.86%)	

LONDON MONEY			
3-month interest	6.5%	(6.75%)	
Libor long bill	101%	(100%)	

STERLING			
New York	1.5815*	(1.5831)	
London	1.5830	(1.5831)	
DM	2.2220	(2.2223)	
FF	2.2600	(2.2630)	
Sfr	2.2546	(2.2583)	
Yen	167.35*	(167.35)	
5 miles	78.6	(79.8)	

DOLLAR			
London	1.5831*	(1.5830)	
DM	2.2220	(2.2223)	
Sfr	2.2546	(2.2583)	
Yen	167.35*	(167.35)	
5 miles	78.6	(79.8)	

TOKYO CLOSING YEN 101.13			
100 yen	101.13		

MONTHLY USA DOLLAR			
Best 15-day (Mar)	\$16.85	(\$16.40)	

LONDON CLOSING			
London close	\$975.46	(\$974.48)	

\* denotes midday trading price

## Bundesbank cut

The Bundesbank, the German central bank, is shedding 1,200 jobs as it prunes back heavily the dense network of small branches across the country. However, there are unlikely to be many job losses at the austere, grey glass and concrete headquarters in Frankfurt, which houses 2,800 staff. Even after the cuts the bank will still employ four times as many people as the Bank of England. Page 22

## Car fears

Economic worries affected sales of new cars to private buyers last year, leading to worries of a slump in the motor industry. Sales of company cars leapt. Page 22

## EC state pensions will be 'dangerously underfunded'

By ROBERT MILLER

STATE pensions in Europe are becoming dangerously underfunded and could pay less than people expect in future, says a report published yesterday by the Federal Trust.

Dick Taverne, author of the report and a former Labour Financial Secretary to the Treasury, says: "The time for radical reform is now."

He recommends gradual partnerships between state and private pension schemes to ease the burden on over-stretched social security budgets. UK public pensions spending, for example, will have risen in real terms by more than 30 per cent between 1980 and 2030. In France the figure is more than 75 per cent.

In a forward to the report *The Pensions Time Bomb* in

Europe, Sir Brian Corby, chairman of Prudential and of the Federal Trust's study group, says: "Pay-As-You-Go arrangements, which provide the bulk of pension provision in the Union, are underpinned by strong support for the concept of inter-generational solidarity — workers support pensioners in succeeding generations — but it could be dangerous, perhaps wrong, to assume such support will continue in the face of demographic and other changes which can be foreseen."

The two big demographic changes that have taken place over the last few decades that affect state pensions are the fall in the fertility rate and big increase in life expectancy. The report adds a much older population places a far greater

strain on other forms of state support, such as health.

The Federal Trust, founded in 1945 to study the future of democratic unity between nations, and whose patrons include Lord Forster, Emma Nicholson, the Conservative MP, Lord Searcote, former Law Lord and Sir Peter Ustinov, also calls on the EC to issue a new draft Pensions Fund Directive. The trust says this would ensure private pension schemes enjoy maximum investment freedom and raise capital availability.

Previous pension directives have foundered on opposition from citizens who have little, if any, access to occupational pension schemes, given the very generous state schemes which are now running into massive deficits.

## Kleinwort fined over gilts trades

By JON ASHWORTH

KLEINWORT Benson has been reprimanded and fined £50,000 for improper trading in gilts futures in the first clampdown of the year by the Securities and Futures Authority. Two employees have been disciplined.

Matthew Read and Ian Round were fined £10,000 and £7,500 respectively in connection with trading at the London International Financial Futures Exchange towards the end of 1992. They were severely reprimanded and ordered to pay £2,500 each towards SFA costs. Kleinwort Benson Gilts, their employer, has paid £10,000 towards costs.

Disciplinary proceedings were triggered by improper — or "wash" — trades linked to the December 1992 long gilt futures contract.

## Northern Electric calls for inquiry into share stake

By ERIC REGULY

NORTHERN Electric has asked for a Stock Exchange inquiry after learning that Swiss Bank Corporation, the adviser for Trafalgar House's £1.2-billion hostile offer for the company, has quietly bought 3.5 per cent of its shares.

The disclosure that SBC owns 3.8 million Northern shares came in reply to a Section 212 notice served this week. SBC said that it holds the shares as a market-maker, meaning that ownership does not have to be disclosed unless a Section 212 notice is issued. If it had bought the shares on behalf of Trafalgar, which bid on December 19, disclosure would have been required. SBC's corporate finance department refused to comment

beyond saying that it was not aware that the market-makers had bought the shares and had no idea of their intentions. Tony Hadfield, Northern chief executive, said that he has asked the exchange to find out when SBC market-makers first bought the shares and over what period. The exchange declined to comment.

Northern shares fell 10p, to 978p, largely because of fears that Trafalgar's bid will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The MMC might take six months to hand down a decision. Trafalgar's bid, worth between £0.48 and £0.77 a share, depending on the mixture of cash, preference shares and National Grid options, will expire in early March.

Separately, Yorkshire Electricity has learnt that SBC market-makers own 8.2 per cent of its shares, a stake worth more than £125 million.

Tony Coleman, Yorkshire finance director, said he is "prepared to accept" that SBC has not built the position on behalf of a potential bidder. "We've been told by SBC that it's purely a market-making position," he said. "We're not aware of a bid and we're not in talks."

Some analysts agreed, although noting that SBC's Yorkshire stake increases takeover speculation in the industry. "Yorkshire is just as vulnerable as any other electricity company," said Nigel Hawkins, of Hoare Govett.

Others saw SBC's Yorkshire holding as hedging to cover Trafalgar's Northern costs.

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## Yacht is first casualty of Montague fall

By JON ASHWORTH



Montague 1,300-acre estate

THE luxury motor yacht once used by Robert Montague, the fallen tycoon, has been sold for up to \$10 million in the first significant asset sale since the former head of Tiphook was forced into bankruptcy two weeks ago.

Agreement is understood to have been reached over the sale of the 139ft *September Blue*, which is moored in the south of France. The identity of the buyer is unknown. The yacht, used by the Montague family, but owned by a company registered in the Channel Islands, had been on the market for some time, most recently at a reduced price of \$11.5 million.

The sale proceeds of \$9 million to \$10 million will go some way to reducing an overdraft with Commerzbank, which has a charge over the

luxury vessel. The German bank reportedly has £15 million in loans outstanding with Mr Montague.

Mr Montague resigned as chief executive of the former Tiphook container group, now Central Transport Rental Group, on December 21, a matter of hours before a court hearing at which he was expected to be declared bankrupt. The hearing, at Oxford County Court, was linked to a writ for £2.3 million served by the Royal Bank of Scotland. A second bankruptcy petition, served by Barclays Bank, had been due to be heard early in the new year.

Attention will now switch to the former Montague family home, the 1,300-acre Pussey estate in Oxfordshire. Ian Knight and Peter Welborn, of

Knight, Frank & Rutley, the property consultants, have been appointed receivers to the Georgian mansion and surrounding land at the behest of Barclays, which holds a charge over the estate in relation to an £8 million mortgage. Mr Montague bought Pussey from Sir Simon Hornby, former chairman of WH Smith, in 1990.

Mr Montague had been fighting bankers over personal loans estimated at £30 million.

He had been under increasing pressure from shareholders, who were angered by a reversal of fortunes at the company. Mr Montague, who earned £13 million a year in his heyday at Tiphook, owned a fleet of sports cars and enjoyed the use of Tiphook's HS 125 corporate jet.

## Are you leaving your heirs less tax more inheritance?

Naturally you want to leave all of your estate to your family or dependants or at least to someone of your choosing.

But the truth is that without some forward planning your heirs will receive only what is left after the Inland Revenue take their share in the form of Inheritance Tax when you die.

And that share can be quite dramatic. For example, on an estate of £400,000 (including house, contents, personal effects, stocks and shares, bonds, trusts, cash, life insurance and any inheritances) the Exchequer stands to be an equal beneficiary. If there were three children they would each get £100,000 but the Exchequer would also take £100,000.

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## Why Saatchi & Saatchi isn't working

I have witnessed many boardroom battles over the years, all the way from Joe Hyman's abrupt exit from Viyella to Tiny Rowland's sacking of the "straight eight" and his subsequent power play with Dieter Bock. But never have I witnessed anything quite like the departure of Maurice Saatchi from Saatchi & Saatchi.

Mr Saatchi's resignation as chairman of the agency he founded, the prelude to last Tuesday's severance of all links with the company, is supposedly related to corporate governance. Unfortunately, if the goings on in the twilight zone between Chicago and Charlotte Street are an advertisement for corporate governance, then it would appear that corporate governance, Saatchi & Saatchi style, isn't working.

In the wake of the Cadbury Report, which extols the virtues of the non-executive boardroom breed, Sir Owen Green, architect of BTR, warned of the dangers of

a "Teutonic shield of the Great and the Good". Rowland spoke not of the Teutonic shield but, drawing on his experience of Sir Basil Smallpeice, likened non-executives to "decorations on a Christmas tree".

Saatchi & Saatchi's boughs are lavishly laden. Come the historic board meeting of December 16 — when the controversial proposals of David Herro, the Chicago-based fund manager, were accepted — non-executives outnumbered the executives six to four. Time for Sir Peter Walters, former chairman of BP, and Sir Paul Girolami, former chairman of Glaxo, to bathe in the footlights, how to a round of applause on behalf of the Great and the Good. The merely Good were Robert Louis-Dreyfus, the former chief executive, Clive Gibson, who also graces the board of Lord Rothschild's St James's Place Capital, Professor Levitt and Dr Thomas Russell.

It would appear that Saatchi & Saatchi's eight-hour board mar-

athon was an extraordinary affair. Sir Paul, word has it, did not actually attend the gathering but was available at the end of a telephone which resided with him in a room at the Hassler Hotel, Rome. Bravo.

Non-executives outnumbered executives, and lawyers, by all accounts, may have outnumbered both. Lawyers from Macfarlanes, acting for Saatchi & Saatchi, are believed to have been joined by lawyers from Linklaters & Paines, reputedly holding the hands of the non-executives. It is not known whether Linklaters despatched anyone to the Hassler. Advice is a lucrative commodity and representatives of SG Warburg and UBS, Saatchi & Saatchi's City advisers, were also on tap.

Herro's demands, which have been well chronicled, were for the removal of Mr Saatchi as chairman and a director, a change of name of the UK's best-known advertising agency, and the withdrawal of Mr Saatchi's notorious



MELVYN MARCKUS

£5 million option agreement. A casual observer might imagine that Saatchi & Saatchi's corporate strategy would be spearheaded by the executive, albeit with due attention paid to nods or otherwise from the Teutonic Shield. A good imitation of this was forthcoming on December 13 when Charles Scott, chief executive, Jeremy Sinclair, deputy chairman, and Mr Saatchi lent their

names to a three-page memo to the non-executives. The memo began: "The Herro group of shareholders have indicated that they would like the board to replace the chairman of the company. We thought it might be useful if you knew our views on this." It concluded: "If a resolution is put to the board demanding the chairman's dismissal, we could not, in the best interests of shareholders, support it."

Lo and behold, on the morning of the marathon, a "friend of Mr Scott" was quoted in *The Financial Times* as saying that the chief executive had signed the memo in the interests of maintaining peace in the boardroom, but it "does not mean he is standing shoulder to shoulder with Mr Saatchi". Whether the non-executives received a subsequent bulletin, explaining that Mr Scott's shoulders are a law unto themselves, is not clear. Suffice to say that Scott is not a man of his words.

As *The Times* disclosed last month, the board also had to

consider a communication from a Los Angeles firm of lawyers acting on behalf of a US corporate shareholder which strongly opposed Mr Herro's gameplan. The message was that Mr Herro's directives might "negatively affect Saatchi & Saatchi's long-term value by several hundred million pounds". With this came the warning that "all necessary and appropriate action" will be taken to "hold the directors personally liable for any loss of shareholder value".

Although the 33-year-old Herro did not call for the resignation of Walters and Girolami, both of whom favoured Mr Saatchi's retention of the chair, word has it that he toyed with the idea. More to the point, Walters and Girolami are believed to have toyed with respective resignations in the midst of the December 16 saga. Rumour has it that they were talked out of such action by advisers on the grounds of fiduciary duty. Strange, should this be the case, that the resignation of

Robert Louis-Dreyfus was accepted.

Surely the Great and the Good owe shareholders a few explanations. Mr Saatchi was prepared to forgo the original option proposal. Alastair Ross Goobey, Postel's "Mr Clean", informed Walters, before the meeting, that Postel would support an incentive scheme for Mr Saatchi provided it met NAPP guidelines. Herro, speaking for anything between 30 per cent and 50 per cent of the votes, depending on the foginess of the day, belatedly switched his attack from the option scheme (which he originally approved to Mr Saatchi's removal. But who chaired the remuneration committee? Answer: Sir Peter. Who sat on the committee? Answer: The Great and the Good, minus Louis-Dreyfus.

Key question: why was Herro's threat of an ECM not tested, whereby all shareholders could have had their say?

The moral: put not your faith in decorations.

## Private car sales slump worries motor trade

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

FEARS for the economy affected sales of new cars to private buyers last year, leading to worries of a new slump in the motor industry.

Figures published yesterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders showed sales last year up by 7.45 per cent over 1993, to 1.91 million.

But the growth was stimulated by industry replacing old company cars worn out during the recession. Registrations of company cars jumped by 15 per cent during 1994.

High street showrooms were almost empty by the end of the year. Sales to private buyers fell 12 per cent in the last quarter, despite lucrative offers from carmakers desperate to keep assembly lines running at full speed.

Ernie Thompson, the SMMT chief executive, said that fears over interest rate rises, poor house sales and job security "put a damper" on the industry. "Every time someone mentions the possibility of an interest rate rise, a shock wave seems to go through consumers, who then refuse to spend money on high budget items like cars."

"In spite of all the money that has gone into marketing and advertising and the motor show publicity in October, we managed to find only nine thousand more private customers in 1994 than in 1993."

The motor industry had hit the start of 1994 at an astonishing pace with sales in the first quarter ahead by 17 per cent. In the second quarter, they slowed to a 10 per cent increase and then to 3 per cent in the third.

December continued the downward trend with sales barely holding firm with a fall of 0.67 per cent to 73,237.

compared with the same month of 1993.

With private buyers becoming more scarce towards the end of the year, the industry needed companies that had kept cars for so long during the recession that they were forced to replace vehicles. As a result, company cars accounted for 45 per cent of all registrations last year — the highest total and about twice the scale of a decade ago.

Private buyers accounted for 49 per cent of sales, or only a 1 per cent increase over 1993.

The SMMT is forecasting growth of 2 per cent in sales for this year, to 1.95 million. Ford was one of the companies to record increased sales thanks to the renewal of company fleets. The market leader's sales rose last year from 381,671 to 418,657 — almost 22 per cent of all industry registrations.

Vauxhall's sales rose only marginally to 310,619 while Rover's sales were up from 238,003 to 245,240. Among the best performers were Honda, whose sales jumped more than 7,000 to 38,187; Fiat, which was up about 15,000 to 38,703 and Citroën, whose sales were up to 84,522, an increase of more than 3,500. Those strong showings help to account for imports taking a 57.02 per cent share of the market compared with 55.41 per cent during 1993.

Jaguar's sales rose from 6,224 to 6,659 and the company is expecting a bumper January with demand growing for its new range of XJ saloons. Rolls-Royce and Bentley sales also increased, from 36 in 1993 to 460.

The top twenty cars in 1994 were:

1. Ford Escort (144,089 sold); 2. Ford Mondeo (127,144); 3. Ford Fiesta (123,723); 4. Vauxhall Cavalier (100,115); 5. Vauxhall Astra (98,098); 6. Rover 200 (80,313); 7. Vauxhall Corsa (78,739); 8. Rover Metro (58,865); 9. Renault Clio (49,337); 10. Peugeot 306 (48,502); 11. Peugeot 106 (44,440); 12. Vauxhall Vectra (43,448); 13. Nissan Micra (43,448); 14. Peugeot 405 (41,647); 15. BMW 3-series (32,483); 16. Citroën Xantia (30,527); 17. Rover 400 (29,566); 18. Citroën ZX (26,688); 19. Citroën AX (25,087); 20. Volvo 400 (24,536).



Chris Brookes, left, chief executive of Scantronics where bid approaches were disruptive, and John Singer, finance director

### DTI in talks over Ford's £100m plea

By Ross Tiesman

DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry officials have opened discussions with Ford of America over its application for a £100 million grant towards the cost of building a new Jaguar car model in Britain.

The application is for a sum equal to Britain's annual Regional Selective Assistance budget. Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, hopes to persuade Ford to build the new car, a smaller vehicle codenamed X200, at Coventry, alongside its new X16 model.

Mr Heseltine approved a £9.4 million grant last March to encourage Ford from building its new sports car, due in 1996, in Portugal. Development costs of the X200 will be about £500 million, and Ford hopes to produce about 50,000 a year. Another 1,000 jobs would be created at Coventry, whose workforce of 6,300 produced just 30,000 cars last year.

The DTI said that the aid request would be subjected to cost-benefit analysis. No decision is expected before March.

### Lloyd's confirms start of downturn

By Sarah Bagnall, Insurance Correspondent

PESSIMISTIC forecasts of underwriting conditions in the Lloyd's of London insurance market emerged yesterday, confirming the start of a downturn in the insurance cycle after three years of rate increases.

Lloyd's latest quarterly trends survey revealed that in the last three months of 1994 rates fell in more classes of business than they rose, for the first time since the survey began in September 1991.

Prospects for the next three months are even bleaker. Of the 53 underwriters surveyed, 36 per cent expect rates to fall compared to the 11 per cent who forecast rate rises. This compares to the 19 per cent of underwriters who experienced a fall in rates in the past three months and the 17 per cent who saw rate increases.

The news gives little cheer to those Lloyd's names struggling on in the hope of recovering the losses they have suffered in recent years.

According to Lloyd's, rates for most aviation and marine classes appear to have peaked and several underwriters expect

future rate reductions. Motor rates appear to be stabilising, although some reductions are still being made. Names on two Gooda Walker syndicates heard yesterday they were not going to be sent demands for £25.2 million this month.

The decision to delay the demands was made by Gooda Walker Run-Off, the company managing the affairs of the Gooda Walker syndicates.

Names underwriting on syndicate 290 in 1989 were expecting demands for £10.5 million, while names underwriting on the syndicate in 1990 were expecting a cash call for £5.8 million.

Names on syndicate 298 in 1989 were expecting a demand for £8.9 million. However, David Young, GWRO chairman, said the syndicates' cash balances enabled the cash calls to be deferred until the spring, when the situation will be reassessed.

Currently, losses totalling £196 million incurred by the Gooda Walker syndicates, excluding syndicate 397, have not been called.

### Scantronics says bids hurt trade

By Martin Barrow

SCANTRONIC, the troubled security components group, has blamed companies behind unsolicited bid approaches for disrupting trading by making direct contact with customers and staff.

Wallace Clapperton, the chairman, said that extensive efforts were made to investigate these approaches but "no acceptable or meaningful proposals were made". Last month the company said bid talks with Menier-Swain had been called off. Mr Clapperton said that a normal pattern of trading should resume.

Yesterday the company confirmed that pre-tax losses were £2.4 million in the half-year to September 30, compared with profits of £1.59 million previously. Losses included charges of £1.7 million, struck against refinancing and restructuring costs. Losses were 8.1p a share, compared with earnings of 1.4p.

There is no interim dividend (0.84p a share last time) as forewarned at the time of a £2.8 million fundraising in November. The shares fell 1.5p to 18.5p.

### Inspirations rights faces turbulence

TURBULENCE has struck Inspirations, the travel group seeking to raise £7 million through a rights issue to help fund the acquisition of Caledonian, the charter airline of British Airways. The company's brokerage subsidiary, Goldcrest Aviation, faces a possible £3 million claim from Touche Ross, joint liquidators of Ambassador Airways, which collapsed late last year. Inspirations has secured a one-week extension for the rights issue as it seeks clarification of the substance of the claim.

Shareholders at an extraordinary meeting yesterday, convened to approve the acquisition, were told that the claims were considered to be "of no merit" and would be strongly resisted. The company's shares, which traded at 145p at the time of the rights issue, fell to 134p yesterday, against the rights issue price of 120p. Last date for acceptance and payment in full of the rights issue will now be January 18. Ambassador was a subsidiary of Best Travel, which collapsed in November; its chairman was Taki Shacalis, who owned a third of Goldcrest until last year when he sold out to Inspirations, taking an 11 per cent stake in the company.

### R-R wins \$150m order

ROLLS-ROYCE has secured a \$150 million contract to supply Tay aero-engines for the GIVSP business jet built by Gulfstream of America. Gulfstream, which equips all its aircraft with Rolls-Royce engines, has decided to keep the GIVSP in production alongside its new GV aircraft, which is to become available in 1996. The new aircraft is the launch platform for a new business-jet engine, the BR710, developed by BMW-Rolls, an Anglo-German partnership. Higher-thrust versions of the Tay power Fokker 70 and Fokker 100 jetliners.

### MacGregor for Slough

JOHN MACGREGOR, the former agriculture and transport minister, has taken his third boardroom position since leaving the Cabinet in last July's reshuffle. Slough Estates, the property company, yesterday named Mr MacGregor as a non-executive director. The Government is under heavy fire for excessive pay rises in the boardroom and over former ministers taking lucrative boardroom positions on leaving office. Mr MacGregor has already accepted directorships of Associated British Foods and Hill Samuel.

### Rhino Group loses £2m

RHINO GROUP, the video and computer games retailer with 117 stores nationwide, will incur losses of £2 million this year after a sharp downturn in the market. Terry Norris, managing director, described the downturn as temporary, caused by the "premature" announcement of new technology that will not reach Britain until the second half of 1995. Profits in the previous 12 months were £2 million. Rhino shares fell 2p to 17p. The company issued shares at 44p just over a year ago when it acquired Virgin's game stores.

### Penna pays Beard

PENNA, the troubled outplacement agency where Sir Andrew Hugh Smith, former head of the Stock Exchange, was installed as chairman after a shareholder revolt, will pay compensation of £280,000 to John Beard, the company's ousted chief executive. Three other former directors, including Deryck Sidney, 74, one of the group's founders, will not receive compensation. The coup was organised by David Banks, supported by the founders of GHN, a company acquired by Penna last June.

### Albright board ready

ALBRIGHT & WILSON, the specialist chemicals company, has completed its non-executive board membership ahead of the company's stock market flotation. It has appointed Nicholas Barber, a non-executive director and deputy chairman of Royal Insurance, who joins other non-executive directors Sir Christopher Benson (non-executive chairman), chairman of Sun Alliance group and Costain, and Michael Garner, a non-executive director of several companies including Clyde Petroleum.

## Bundesbank to shed 1,200 staff

By Colin Narborough, World Trade Correspondent



Tietmeyer: closing branches

THE mighty Bundesbank, the German central bank, is shearing 1,200 jobs from its payroll as it prunes heavily its dense network of small branches across Germany.

The austere, grey glass and concrete head office in Frankfurt, with 2,800 staff, is unlikely to see many jobs go. Even after the downsizing, set to last ten years, the bank, whose president is Hans Tietmeyer, will employ about four times as many people as the Bank of England. A Bundesbank spokesman said its regional network would be slimmed down from 180 branches to 120, continuing a process begun in the mid-1970s, when it had 250 branches.

Computerisation and tech-

nological progress are the main causes of the reduced need for small branch offices. German unification and monetary union brought economies too, as it was decided to reduce the number of major regional arms from 11 to 9, despite the inclusion of five new Länder.

The job cuts are phased in gently, with no compulsory redundancies, the Bundesbank spokesman said. He was unable to say how the employment picture would change if the the European Union moved to a single currency in either 1997 or 1999, the targets set out in the Maastricht Treaty.

The European Monetary Institute (EMI), forerunner of

the proposed European Central Bank, is also located in Frankfurt, because Germany insisted that this was the only way to guarantee monetary stability Bundesbank-style.

The EMI is still a dwarf against the Bundesbank, which had almost 18,000 employees at the start of 1994. The lean and mean Bank of England had just 4,287.

In 1993, the Bundesbank's staff costs were DM15 billion (£618 million); the Bank of England's pay bill was just over £100 million. The bottom line showed an even bigger gap. The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street turned in a pre-tax profit of just over £120 million; the Bundesbank DM18.5 billion (£7.7 billion).

### TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.15	1.58
Austria Sch	16.04	16.54
Belgium Fr	52.94	48.84
Canada \$	2.293	2.133
Cyprus Cyp	0.782	0.727
Denmark Kr	0.113	0.83
Finland Mk	8.06	7.38
France Ft	8.85	8.15
Germany Dm	2.58	2.37
Greece Dr	357.00	375.00
Hong Kong \$	16.74	11.74
Ireland Pt	1.06	0.88
Italy Lira	2836.00	2480.00
Japan Yen	172.00	158.00
Malta	0.619	0.564
Netherlands Gld	2.867	2.637
Norway Kr	11.18	10.38
Portugal Esc	260.50	242.00
S Africa Rd	16.50	15.50
Spain Pta	214.50	200.50
Sweden Kr	12.34	11.54
Switzerland Fr	2.16	1.98
Turkey Lira	80677.00	75000.00
USA \$	1.559	1.529

Notes for small denominations bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading, yesterday.

### THE SUNDAY TIMES

#### The man who lost £380m

For the high-flying 36-year-old City investment wizard, the new year opened on a more sombre note. From the \$900m in funds his empire controlled at the peak, it now has just \$300m — a catastrophic loss of \$600m in a mere 12 months.

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow.

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## CELLNET: Howard Ford and Steve Rowley

## The old team rings up a new challenge

**Eric Reguly talks to the men expected soon to dislodge Vodafone as mobile-phone market leaders**

When Howard Ford arrived at Cellnet, the mobile-phone network, in August, he did what ambitious new managing directors normally do. He cleared the offices of executives he did not want and hired a headhunter to find replacements.

Finding a general manager was a priority, and his scouts eventually came up with a name that stunned him. It was Steve Rowley, his old colleague at IBM. The two had worked so closely together in IBM's PC division in the early 1990s that they might as well have been joined at the hip. Mr Ford said he did not know Mr Rowley was on the market, and Mr Rowley maintains that he did not know Mr Ford was hiring.

Taking on Mr Rowley presented a problem. Mr Ford did not want to be seen to be raiding IBM, his employer for 20 years, and was worried that Cellnet staff would think he had favoured a buddy over a better-qualified candidate. Indeed, he had been close to catching someone else when Mr Rowley's name popped up on the radar screen.

"So I had a long chat with our shareholders, British Telecom and Securicor, and we agreed that Steve would have to be at least an order of magnitude better than the other candidate to make it worthwhile taking the risk," Mr Ford said.

BT and Securicor were impressed and Mr Rowley joined Cellnet as general manager, responsible for sales, marketing, products and customer service. In October, the old one-two team was back in place. "I wouldn't have paid the huge fees I paid to the headhunter if I had known I could have gone to him directly," Mr Ford said.

Some industry insiders were

surprised that Cellnet, which today celebrates its tenth anniversary of commercial service, brought in neophytes to run a company that expects soon to displace Vodafone as the market leader. "They're an unknown force," said Jacqui Brookes, a manager at the Federation of Communication Services, the industry lobby group.

Most observers, however, have high hopes for the duo. There was some worry within Cellnet and the City that BT would parachute one of its own into the managing director's seat. BT, which has a virtual monopoly on residential phone services, is hardly known as a breeding ground for risk takers or entrepreneurs.

"Cellnet already had a reputation of being a mini-BT," said Evan Miller, an analyst with Lehman Brothers. "It was not as aggressive as Vodafone and it is infused with the BT management style. I think it was right bringing in someone from the outside."

Howard Ford knows what it's like being in a large, competitive environment. A strong competitive spirit is becoming a valuable asset for aspiring mobile-phone executives.

Until recently, no one had to worry about the competition because the market had nowhere to go but up. Five years ago, there were fewer than a million mobile-phone subscribers in Britain; now there are about 3.5 million. Although there still is room to expand, competition is heating up among the four main players in the rush to establish large and solid customer bases, which is the key to sustained profitability.

Attracting new subscribers is not as easy as it used to be because prices and technology have become broadly similar. From the consumer's point of view, the differences between Cellnet and Vodafone are

academic. As a result, mobile-phone companies are putting more emphasis on marketing and customer service. Their inspiration is coming less from the laboratory and more from marketing giants such as Procter & Gamble and Unilever.

Mr Ford and Mr Rowley said their backgrounds are well suited for Cellnet. In his final years at IBM, Mr Ford was responsible for its PC business in Britain, Europe, the Middle East and Africa while Mr Rowley ran the PC division in Britain.

Competition was fierce, margins were thin and brand image no longer counted for much. There is little doubt that the mobile-phone business is heading in the same



Two former colleagues who joined forces again with the help of a headhunter: Howard Ford, left, and Steve Rowley

direction. "IBM had been tremendously successful in the PC business and a lot of that had to do with the IBM brand," Mr Rowley said. "But suddenly, brand became much less important... we had to think of ways of differentiating our product and that's relevant to what we're doing today."

At least one observer is not convinced that Cellnet will rely on marketing and customer service alone to gain sales. Sir Gerry Whent, Vodafone's chief executive, said he is worried that Mr Ford will resort to a price war in an effort to grab market share. "These ex-computer guys are no businessmen," he said. "The computer

industry committed hara-kiri by cutting prices so much. I just hope they don't go out and do the same here."

Mr Ford and Mr Rowley said they have no intention of starting a price war, but would not be surprised if Vodafone did because it is close to being unseated as the market leader. Vodafone had 1.64 million subscribers at the end of December. Cellnet had 1.56 million, only 80,000 fewer. Mr Ford predicted that Cellnet would take the lead by March unless Sir Gerry "does something stupid" like slashing prices.

Mr Rowley said: "Vodafone is dangerous because they're a wounded animal."

Mr Ford, 43, seems like an executive who would relish a marketing war. Mr Rowley, 36, does not. At first glance, they seem alike. Both have moustaches, hints of grey in their hair and wear dark, conservative suits. Both are family men, with two children each.

But Mr Ford is more aggressive and more blunt. If it were not for his Cockney accent, you would think he worked on Wall Street. Mr Rowley could be a professor. "Howard's a faster decision maker and he's more entrepreneurial," Mr Rowley said. "I'm more analytical. I think he's more of an instinctive decision maker than I am."

Mr Ford, the son of a grocer and a secretary, was born and raised in London. He went to Cambridge, where he studied chemical engi-

neering, and was captain of the Christ's College cricket team. He spent a year at Sterling Winthrop Pharmaceuticals after graduation and then joined IBM as a typewriter salesman. He worked his way through the sales and marketing ranks and, by the late 1980s, was assistant to the president of IBM Europe.

Mr Rowley, the London-born son of a construction company chairman, has a broader background. Travel was his first passion. At 18, he was travelling alone through Central and South America and got robbed in Brazil. He had no money, and he had to get home. "I signed up on a Panamanian cargo boat on a year's contract and jumped ship in Rotterdam," he said.

Mr Rowley studied engineering design at Loughborough and had stints at Hewlett-Packard and a Japanese trading company before landing at IBM in 1985. By 1989, he was assistant to the chairman of IBM UK. That was when he met Mr Ford.

The two joined forces a year later. Mr Ford was appointed to run IBM's PC business in Britain and hired Mr Rowley as his sales manager.

They got along well, although they say they occasionally disagreed on which employees should be let go as IBM trimmed its ranks. The relationship lasted until 1993, when Mr Ford was transferred to Paris to become the company's regional director for northwest Europe. Mr Rowley stayed behind, taking over Mr Ford's previous job.

Mr Ford was miserable in Paris. He did not want to take his sons out of school, so they stayed behind with their mother. A scheme to get home by transferring IBM's European PC headquarters to London failed, and when the company asked him to move to New York, he quietly put himself on the job market. He agreed to replace Stafford Taylor, who is now head of BT's personal communications division, in July.

Meanwhile, Mr Rowley was also unhappy. "Increasingly, I was getting my orders from New York over the telephone," he said. Afraid of losing all his managerial independence, he decided that a career change was in order.

The pair have arrived at Cellnet when the company is on the rise. Their first year on the job should be relatively smooth, unless, of course, Cellnet and Vodafone go to war. "We're prepared for any eventual-ity," Mr Ford said.

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## Gold down, base metals up on the mining see-saw

Five shares for 1995 picked by Colin Campbell

Mining markets performed like a see-saw last year. Base metals sat on one side of the plank, and precious metals on the other.

The performance of The Times mining portfolio of five shares, published last year on January 3 and which were Anglo American, Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Monarch Resources, Ningini Mining and TVX Gold, see-sawed too.

One share went up - Anglo American, by 3.8 per cent. Four went down - Ningini, the weakest, fell 26.7 per cent. But then even the shares of the well respected RTZ group were 5 per cent down year-on-year. The result was that the portfolio registered an average setback of 13.6 per cent, although that was not as disappointing as the market.

The gold price, compounded by its most recent fall, was 4.6 per cent lower, and in gold's wake world regional gold indices tumbled. The FT Gold Mines index was 29.3 per cent lower. The Africa gold index was down 14.5 per cent. Australia's gold index was 30.9 per cent off, and there was a 38.9 per cent fall in the North American gold mines index.

This year, as Newton would have it, analysts believe the pattern in mining markets will be reversed and precious metals will give investors a more exciting run for their money than base metals. If that proves true, now could be a propitious time to pick a portfolio with a precious flavour and an exposure to other commodities. Greenwich Resources (154p): The group's open offer and share placing in



Lihir in Papua New Guinea: a fabulously rich deposit

raise up to £4 million at 15p a share closes on January 20. Greenwich, of which Dr Colin Phipps is chairman, has a 12.5 per cent net profit interest in the Paddington open pit gold mine in Western Australia, interests in Venezuela and, nearer home, is engaged in serious exploration for gold in Greece and the Czech Republic.

Newcrest Mining, which has a 51 per cent share in Greenwich's Sappes gold project in Greece, has sharply increased its 1995 exploration budget in the belief that Sappes could eventually be a multi-million ounce operation.

International Musto Exploration (308p): Digging for anything in South America is invariably fraught with difficulties, and every Western mining group of note has a country preference.

However, Musto's Bajo de la Alumbrera deposit in Argentina - a massive copper-gold find - is well past the testing stage, and London analysts are becoming more enthusiastic about prospects. If the gold price advances and copper merely holds its ground in 1995,

financial prospects for Musto can only be enhanced as the year unfolds. Ningini Mining (84p): For a long time the group has successfully operated the San Cristobal gold mine in Chile and the Red Dome mine in Queensland, Australia, and the shares have enjoyed a dedicated following from London investors.

However, the share was a dud performer in 1994, but only because of the change of government in Papua New Guinea and further delays in the issue by the authorities of a special mining lease for Lihir.

Lihir is a world class gold deposit, fabulously rich in grade and reserves but technically challenging, which is just waiting to happen. It is 80 per cent owned by RTZ, and 20 per cent by Ningini. A public float of Lihir Gold is planned, and the PNG authorities have promised that the special mining lease will be granted by February 28 at the latest.

North Broken Hill Peko (860p): Mining interests of this Australian giant en-

brace iron ore, gold, copper, uranium and forestry products.

The group's treasury is full of cash, and current operations generate a strong cash flow. Any improvement in base and/or precious metal prices in 1995 should serve the group well.

Pegasus Gold (679p): Among the world's leading mining groups, Pegasus has the dubious distinction of having tumbled the farthest in 1994. In dollar terms it fell 41 per cent. However, contrarian investing has long proved itself effective in the gold sector.

Total annual gold production is forecast to rise to more than 500,000 ounces this year. Almost 90 per cent of Pegasus's operations are in America, where growing pressure from the "green" lobby is making mining more challenging.

However, Pegasus is exploring and developing projects in other international mining provinces. Non-American operations include projects in Chile, Australia and in the CIS.

If the 1995 see-saw theory holds good, analysts do not rule out a change of heart by the investment funds this year.

In 1994, funds heavily backed base metals. However, some analysts believe current base metal prices can not be sustained and that the investment fashion will turn.

Nickel could have reasonable price prospects this year. But the copper price could be in for a summer tumble, and it is doubtful whether aluminium, at around 90 cents a pound, can hold its current levels for much longer.

Analysts also fear for inflation prospects, and Euan Worthington, a director of the mining team at SG Warburg, believes that 1995 could be the year when the world gold price again moves above \$400 an ounce.

If he is right, the 1995 mining portfolio should be sitting on the right side of the see-saw 12 months hence.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Shares bounce back after futures-inspired rally

SHARE prices and government bonds bounced back to end the first trading week of the new year virtually all-square.

A futures-inspired rally and stock shortages enabled share prices to bounce back from a depressingly quiet start to the year, with the FT-SE 100 index shaking off a cautious start to close just below its best of the day with a rise of 32.7 at 3,065.0, a net fall on the week of just half a point.

Brokers and fund managers gave a collective sigh of relief as the market galvanised into action and pulled back from the 3,000 support level.

But judging by the low level of turnover, which saw just 510 million shares change hands, it would appear that the bulk of the action took place in the futures pit.

Market sentiment remains frail and worries remain about a further rise in US interest rates to curb an economy that continues to show signs of growing too fast.

There was a brief flurry of speculative excitement in shares of Yorkshire Electricity with the price rising 7p to 737p as it emerged that Swiss Bank Corporation had built up an 8.24 per cent stake.

Swiss Bank insisted that most of the stake had been acquired acting as a market-maker in the normal course of events. But there was a healthy air of cynicism among many speculators who were reminded that Swiss Bank is acting as financial adviser to Trafalgar House as part of its £1.2 billion bid for Northern Electric, down 10p to 978p.

One theory suggested that Swiss Bank had built up the holding as part of a hedging strategy that would enable it to deliver stock in Northern. Another line of thought suggested that Yorkshire might prove to be the next bid target for a likely predator.

Meanwhile, South Western Electricity has completed its share buy-back with the acquisition of a further 5 per cent of the equity. SZW paid 860p for the 6.07 million shares. SWEB gained shareholder approval to buy back up to 10 per cent of its equity in order to enhance earnings at its annual meeting back in August.

Pannure Gordon, the broker, livered proceedings by issuing its new year buy recommendations. They are believed to have included Royal Bank of Scotland, 2p better



Good news on passenger traffic boosted BA's shares

at 392p. David S Smith, 1p firmer at 510p, T Cowie, 1p better at 340p, and British Aerospace, 12p higher at 436p.

Reed International saw an early lead wiped out, finishing 10p down at 793p after briefly touching 814p as Smith New Court, the broker, downgraded its profit forecast.

BT climbed 3p to 387p ahead of a series of presenta-

cluding Charterhouse Tilney and UBS, to upgrade their pre-tax profit forecasts for the current year.

Rhino Group, the games software retailer, fell 2p to 17p after giving warning that the depressed video games market has resulted in the group plunging into the red last year.

Rhino forecast pre-tax losses of £2 million against a profit last time of £2 million. Trade

night, Goldman Sachs, the lead broker, has been bidding for stock for most of the week as the price came under pressure ahead of the expiry. The losses were exacerbated by suggestions from Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, that the shares were overvalued. They were originally floated at 250p.

Jefferson Smurfit, the Irish paper and packaging group, advanced 9p to 404p, cheered by the news that paper prices are set to return to the levels seen five years ago. Michael Smurfit, the chairman, said he was confident of further price rises this year after the unprecedented increases in 1994.

Lucas Industries breathed a sigh of relief as the price firmed up to 198p after the company was fined \$18.5 million to settle a US probe into falsifying inspection records. Lucas maintained that the gearbox and rocket launches at the centre of the case had met requirements. The company made provisions in its 1994 account to cover the cost of the settlement and the outcome of any civil action.

Scotstren, the electronics group, which recently broke off bid talks with rival Memovier Swain, fell 1 1/2p to 184p after confirming Odey's profits warning. Half-year figures revealed pre-tax losses of £2.43 million, compared with last year's £1.59 million profit. The figure was struck after restructuring charges of £1.73 million.

GILTED-EDGED: Gilts put in a late charge after publication of the latest US employment numbers with one American fund manager reported to be a big buyer of stock. After a cautious start, prices closed near their best of the day along with other bond markets as prices were squeezed higher.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt finished 8 1/2p higher at £101 1/2 as 46,000 contracts were completed. In the cash market, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 advanced almost 1/2p to £103 1/2 while at the shorter end, Treasury 9 1/2 per cent 1999 finished five ticks better at £102 1/2.

NEW YORK: Blue chips changed direction and moved higher after the bond market pared some of its losses. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was 22.21 ahead at 3,873.13.

was buoyant in the run-up to Christmas but business had been hit by the decision of manufacturers to hold back new products until late 1995. Tough competition had also put the squeeze on margins.

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, firmed 1p to 246p in nervous trading awaiting the support programme that accompanied last month's flotation to expire at the close of business in New York last

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NEW YORK: Blue chips changed direction and moved higher after the bond market pared some of its losses. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was 22.21 ahead at 3,873.13.

was buoyant in the run-up to Christmas but business had been hit by the decision of manufacturers to hold back new products until late 1995. Tough competition had also put the squeeze on margins.

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, firmed 1p to 246p in nervous trading awaiting the support programme that accompanied last month's flotation to expire at the close of business in New York last

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)  
Dow Jones 3073.13 (+22.21)  
S&P Composite 461.70 (+1.38)

Tokyo  
Nikkei Average 15519.46 (+66.65)

Hong Kong  
Hang Seng 7663.25 (+23.13)

Amsterdam  
EEX Index 415.17 (+0.49)

Sydney  
ASX 1867.7 (+1.4)

Frankfurt  
DAX 2053.62 (+8.56)

Singapore  
Straits 2207.37 (+22.31)

Brussels  
General 1672.4

Paris  
CAC 40 1880.40 (+14.97)

Zurich  
SIX Gen 150.90 (+1.20)

London  
FT 30 2572.2 (+35.4)

FT 100 3060.0 (+32.7)

FTSE MIB 200 2474.6 (+4.3)

FTSE Eurozone 100 1327.39 (+1.54)

FT A All-Share 1539.14 (+12.07)

FT MIB Financials 1647.09 (+15.68)

FT Gold Index 1244.14 (+1.54)

FT Food Index 105.32 (+0.03)

FT Govt Sec 100.86 (+0.05)

Bergsma 1507.7

SEAD Volume 149.39 (+0.18)

US\$ 1.5542 (+0.0003)

German Mark 2.4871 (+0.0004)

Exchange Index 704.64 (+0.38)

Bank of England official rate (Nov)

ESCU 1.2728

100 = 145.3 Nov (24th) Jan 1992=100

RECENT ISSUES

Asset Management Inv (100) 99 +1

BSkyB 346 +4

British Air Gdn 614 -14

Clydeport 168 -

First Russ Fed (100) 60 -18

Fleming Nat Res (100) 91 -1

For & Col Emag C (100) 98 -4

Genere Micro Ind (500) 508 -

Hill Hite 102 -

Hydro Int (80) 83 -

Innovative Techs (120) 123 -

Investors Cptl 807 -

Invests Cap Inc An 374 -

Klin Capital (100) 100 -

Log & Gen Rac (100) 97 -1

MICE Group (3) 35 +4

Mitsun Ltd TT (100) 84 -

Pentec Oil 124 -1

RM (175) 206 -

Residential Prop 103 -

SeaPerfect (120) 128 -

TeleWest Comm (182) 167 -2

Wellington Under (100) 102 -

Woodchester Us 123 -

RIGHTS ISSUES

OMI n/p (37) 2 -

Powell Duffryn n/p (440) 53 +2

Townrite n/p (10) 4 -

Trio n/p (25) 4 -

Verity n/p (74) 4 -

Wick Grubbs n/p (60) 7 -

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER: Vaux Group 232p (+11p)

Redland 467p (+11p)

Delta 480p (+12p)

FALLS: Wolsley 772p (-10p)

Antalgos 305p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 33

## TEMPUS

### Shock tactics

SWISS Bank Corporation is playing some very odd games in the electricity sector. Last month it fixed up Trafalgar House's ill-conceived bid for Northern Electric and discovered a handy way of circumventing the golden share. Then it invented a derivative linked to the sector to help Trafalgar to offset the cost of the bid. Now it has been unmasked as an 8.2 per cent stakeholder in Yorkshire Electricity and has even quietly managed to amass a 3.5 per cent stake in Northern without announcing it.

It beggars belief that SBC has the brass cheek to claim that its £127 million investment in Yorkshire is part of its normal market-making activities and therefore exempt from the Takeover Panel's reporting rules. But under Panel rules, a market maker can warehouse up to 15 per cent of a company's

shares before making it public. SBC denies vigorously that the Yorkshire shares are connected with its derivatives contract with Trafalgar House. If so, it would have had to announce the stake. Such a strategic block of Yorkshire's shares would also be highly attractive to a potential bidder. What a shame, then, that SBC's impenetrable Chinese wall prevents its corporate finance department knowing that the stake exists.

More worrying is SBC's silent stake-building in Northern. If this was permitted under Panel rules, then the rules should be changed. Otherwise what would prevent a market-maker building a 14.9 per cent stake in any company and selling it on to a waiting bidder, tilting the chances of any offer heavily in its favour before shareholders were able to consider it at face value?

## Rhino

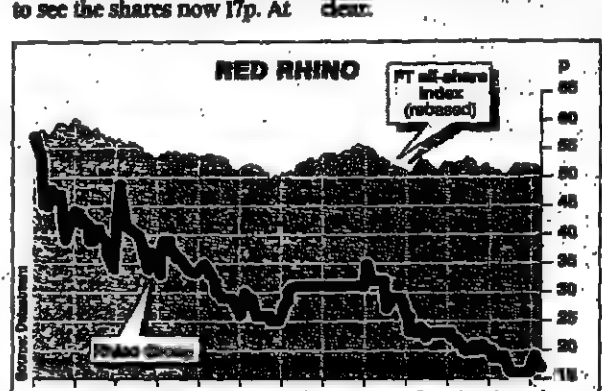
LIKE its real-life namesake, Rhino Group is an endangered species. The company has built itself into the country's largest computer games retailer just as they are disappearing into fashion history. Unless a new and improved generation of games reawakens the nation's interest in joystick twiddling, the company's future is bleak.

Rhino's funding could have been better. It has expanded its Future Zone shops from fewer than 50 to 112 since it bought the Virgin Game Centres 14 months ago. Meanwhile, game sales have fallen 20 per cent, pushing the group to an estimated loss of £2 million for 1994.

The computer game industry is now waiting nervously to see how the public will receive Sony's entry into the

## RED RHINO

market and the launch of a 32-bit machine by Sega, which will be more than twice the power of existing consoles. Optimists see it lifting sales back to 1993 levels. If so, it would propel Rhino back into the black. Subsequent to the most recent rights issue at 44p a share may not be too happy to see the shares now 17p. At



## Packaging

THE packaging industry spent much of 1994 stuck in a paper mill, suffering severe margin squeezes as paper manufacturers drove up their prices. This year, the packagers hope to make more profit by passing on some of the inflation. The price of linerboard, the raw material for cardboard packaging, itself made of waste paper, doubled last year. However, packaging companies such as Bowater found it difficult to pass on costs to their end-users, mainly food and detergent makers like Unilever and Procter & Gamble.

The paper price escalation will continue but with fewer jobs: Jefferson Smurfit has forecast two increases, with prices reaching their 1989 peak this year in real terms. Then, kraft liner was selling at about DM150 per tonne. The price has soared in a year from DM580 to DM900. Many believe that prices could rise above their 1989

levels but the signs are that packaging end-users will have to stomach inflation of 10-15 per cent over the next 12 months.

That will be welcome relief for packaging companies which this year should see some recovery. Bowater could steal some of the share price limelight from Jefferson Smurfit.

## Lucas

LUCAS must be kicking itself about its run-in with the US Government over faulty gearboxes. The case has ended up at \$18.5 million, which would have been better spent investing in the business, and has taken up thousands of hours of management time, which should have been devoted to running the business.

Otherwise, the group has got off relatively lightly, considering that it was selling the US Navy a vital aerospace component without checking it properly. The fine

and expenses may not sound cheap, but the group has so far not been ordered to replace all the gearboxes on the F-18, which could have cost far more. There is no evidence of any Navy pilot being injured in a crash caused by the gearbox; otherwise, the group's balance sheet would have felt the full weight of the US legal system.

The group's trading activities also seem remarkably unaffected by the episode. It is now supplying the gearbox to the souped-up version of the F-18. So many US defence contractors have been taken to task by the federal authorities that this is almost business as usual. If Lucas can make good its promise to keep the entire cost of the affair within last year's £87 million provision, it should be able to forget it quickly. Nevertheless, the incident is a reminder of how much work lies ahead for George Simpson, the chief executive.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

## MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Current price	Week's change	
British Airways	+363p	Bumper traffic figures
Coal Investments	+12p	Institutional support
Vodafone	+10p	Fears of increased competition
Eurotunnel	+31p	Bookings growth
P&O	-581p	Competition fears
BSkyB	-10p	Support operation ends
British Aerospace	+436p	Buy recommendation
Hanson	+243p	American support for shares
BT	-587p/???	Presentations next week





## PEP JUNGLE 26

Finding best buys for cautious investors

# WEEKEND MONEY

## LOST FUNDS 28

Millions have seen savings go down the drain



Finely balanced: many parents with children at independent schools are paying more each month in school fees than for the mortgage on their homes — a big rise in fees could cause schools to close

## Labour facing schools' charity conundrum

Anne Ashworth reports on a complicated legal situation

The news that the Labour Party was pondering the removal of charitable status from public schools sent a shiver through the school-fee paying classes, a more socially disparate group today than ever before.

At a rough estimate, the disappearance of charitable status would add 8 per cent to fees at those institutions without financial endowments dating back to ancient times. One factor that would make fees more expensive would be the loss of the extensive income and capital gains tax and VAT benefits that flow from charitable status.

An increase in the bill that for many households is now much larger than mortgage, would come as a considerable blow to parents who have, in past years, seen rises in fees well above the inflation rate.

Figures from the Independent Schools Information Service show fees have seldom risen by less than 8 per cent year-on-year, peaking at 12.5 per cent in 1990-91.

Between 1993 and 1994, the pace of growth slowed to an average of 2.6 per cent, as the

recession decreased the numbers of parents with the means to pay for their children's education and a reduction in teachers' pay awards. The increase is still, however, slightly more than inflation. The average boarding fee now costs £3,261 a term, the average day school, £1,400.

As the Labour party continues its deliberations and the schools prepare their defence, parents can take some comfort in the thought that dismantling charitable status would be extremely complicated. The first step would be to find a proper legal definition for the term "charity". Despite attempts by eminent committees of lawyers, none exists at present.

Solicitors Hilary Phillips and John Claricoat of the London firm Claricoat Phillips, consultants in charity law and authors of *Charity Law and Regulation* to be published next week, point out a hitherto little-publicised

consequence of the ending of charitable status: This is the obligation on the Charity Commissioners to divert the property occupied by the school to another charitable purpose. This would be required under the cy-près doctrine, an obscure piece of 15th century law.

Mr Claricoat and Mrs Phillips said: "Should the endowment of Eton College be made applicable once more for the education of poor scholars?"

Even if the seizure of the playing fields of Eton is not required, then the whole issue of how to deal with the buildings and land belonging to independent schools would, said Mrs Phillips and Mr Claricoat, pose a significant problem to legislators. They added: "These assets will have been donated, perhaps by the founder, then augmented by public appeals, gifts and legacies which, themselves have had

the advantages of tax relief. Will the new law order the assets to be confiscated? If not, then will the Charity Commissioners, or the Court, have to arrange to appoint new trustees to put the assets and the income to use? And if running an independent school does not itself become unlawful, if the buildings of the one-time charity are put up for rent, would they be available to persons wishing to carry on a school in the premises?"

Another difficulty facing those ending charitable status would be which schools to include: "There are independent schools which cater for children who are not easily accommodated in mainstream education because they are handicapped. Are these schools too to lose charitable status?" said Mr Claricoat.

He added: "Not all schools with charitable status are in the private sector. There are, for example, voluntary-aided and voluntary-controlled schools, based in property settled upon charitable trusts. Careful drafting would be needed to exclude these from the legislation."

## A less than taxing regime

Maurice Fitzpatrick, senior tax consultant at Chantrey Vellacott, the accountant, explains that, by virtue of their charitable status, independent and grant-maintained schools enjoy exemption from taxation on most income and gains. They do not pay full business rates either (Anne Ashworth writes).

He adds: "They do not pay tax on any profits from tuition fees, or on investment income, or long-term rental income, from, say, letting out surplus build-

ings. Certain money raising functions also go untaxed and there is no capital gains tax to pay on the disposal of assets, such as surplus land. They may pay tax on the hiring out of facilities."

Schools cannot reclaim VAT paid on their costs because their income is either outside the scope of VAT, such as block grants, or exempt for VAT purposes, such as fees. Under VAT rules, schools with charitable status do not have to pay VAT on certain types of goods and services,

such as adverts for staff. Grant-maintained schools pay VAT on fuel at the domestic rate of 8 per cent, rather than the 17.5 per cent business rate.

Being able to receive donations in a tax efficient form is another benefit. A school with charitable status can benefit under deeds of covenant, payroll giving and the Gift Aid schemes. "If a millionaire dies and leaves all his money to his old school, this gift will be free of inheritance tax," says Mr Fitzpatrick.

## Isis acts after fees specialist is closed

The Independent Schools Information Service (Isis) moved quickly yesterday to reassure anxious investors that their money was safe after Fimbria, the watchdog, ordered Claremont Saville, the school fees planning specialist, to cease business on Thursday night (Robert Miller writes). The Claremont Saville School Fees Special Reserve Plan, launched in 1992 in conjunction with the Halifax Building Society, was recommended by Isis until a month ago. David Woodhead, Isis director, said at that point the link with Claremont Saville was severed because of "concern over inadequate controls at various company branches. I must stress the money invested in the school fees plans is not in jeopardy as the company did not handle client money."

Fimbria ordered Claremont Saville to cease business because it had failed to maintain sufficient financial

Pepps guidance ..... 26  
Tessa transfers ..... 20

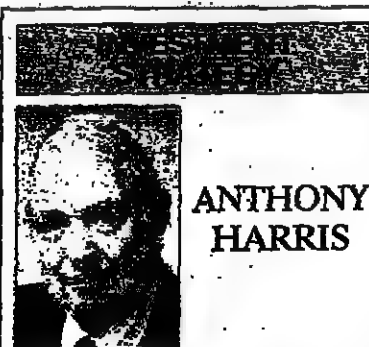
resources to make sure it could meet its liabilities. The controversy surrounding the charitable status of independent schools, will mean many families start to put extra funds aside to compensate for any possible fees rise. Recently there has been a move away from insurance policy-based schemes, with parents preferring to exploit Tessa and Pepps. Each adult enjoys an annual general Pepp allowance of £6,000. A further £3,000 can be invested in a single-company Pepp. There is no limit to the amount that can be put in zero-dividend preference shares in split-capital investment trusts. These pay no dividend but give a fixed, but not guaranteed, capital repayment on a named future date. Two zeros to consider are Gartmore Shared Equity and Gartmore British Income and Growth.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

## Look West (and East, too)

Last week this column pointed out some bear traps strewn across the forecasting landscape: it has taken only a few days for one to grow visibly deeper. The Mexican crisis has wrecked the short-term outlook for one of the emerging market punter's favourite economies, a disaster which may well throttle the flow of Western capital to all such economies for a time. It will also have a direct impact on the whole dollar trading area. Mexican growth was projected in most consensus forecasts at about 4.5 per cent; substitute a zero, and that may be optimistic. Mexican imports, especially of the capital goods which the US provides, will be choked; not enough to stop the handwagon, but a definite touch on the brakes. Small wonder that equities have looked hangoverish, and bonds a bit more hopeful.

And why should you worry? The impact in Europe of these distant events may be almost invisibly small; not to panic. But the impact on your confidence, in economic forecasts ought to be greater, because a good analyst should have seen this trouble coming. The Mexican peso was pegged to the US dollar in 1987, but inflation took a long time to fall; by this year producer prices had risen 45 per cent more than US prices, a clear warning. But forecasters are as prone to idleness and fashion as anyone else. They didn't know the Mexican details they did know the consensus: that this was a miracle economy, that Nafta would work a further miracle, that investors would happily finance any



ANTHONY HARRIS

deficit. You can always rationalise optimism, especially if Mexican success provides your bread and butter. Just a little local mistake? There are good reasons to fear not. The forecasting errors of 1994 were all on the side of pessimism: growth figures too low, inflation too high, everywhere. When you are unsure why you got it wrong, it is only human to lean the other way in the next forecast. Those who frame EC projections in Brussels were told to add a bit of glow, and it would be surprising if they were the only ones. Indeed, the details of the consensus forecast are suspect: consumer spending weakening in almost every European economy, and profit rises slowing; but growth is still shown up, thanks to rising exports and an investment boom.

An investment boom with sales and profit growth down? Of course it's not impossible: it has happened before. But it is not the investor's job to

second-guess a professional forecaster: merely to decide whether the risk of error is upside or downside. Here it is surely downside: it is easy to imagine planned investment slowing with cash flow. And look again at those rising exports. Where do they go? Mainly to the booming East. And why is the East booming? Partly because of rising exports to the slowing economies of Europe. Again, not impossible; but again, a downside risk.

And there is, as you should have noticed, a Mexican factor even in countries as remote as, say, Malaysia: how much will the emerging economies be hampered if capital inflows are checked? Hard to say. The portfolio flows which provide such risky fun for punters are only the froth: it is direct investment by big companies, especially from Japan, that puts fuel in the tank. But not even corporate planners are immune from market sentiment. Many have already lost money in Mexico or China. For the rest, let's just go over it again, old boy. The catch-up boom in the emerging economies will hardly be stopped, but there is now some sand in the oil.

What the investor needs is not sand, but salt — a large pinch to scatter over every account you read of the accelerating recovery in the global economy. Recovery? Still odds on. But accelerating? Not such a good bet. The winning strategy in 1994 (an annus horribilis for money managers despite unexpected good news) was to carry plenty of cash. That still looks good for 1995.

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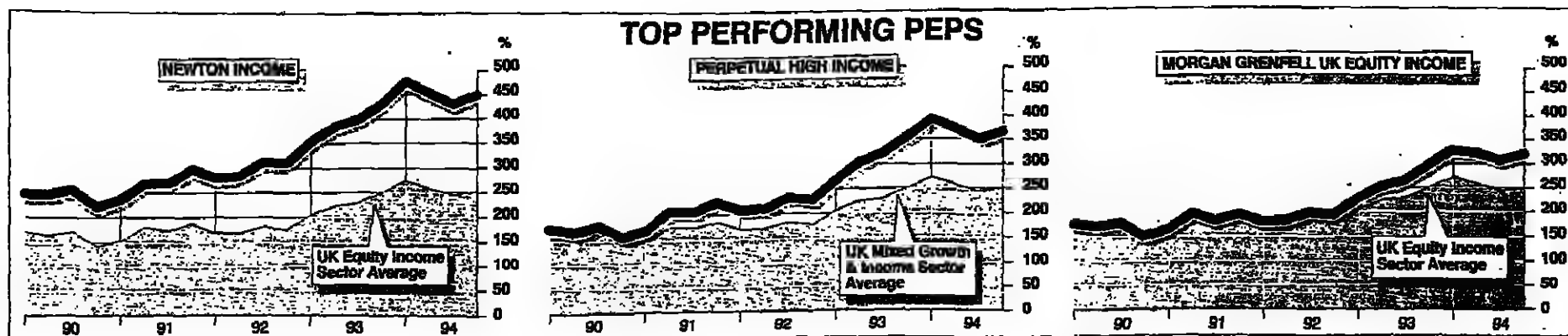
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## Guidance through the Pep jungle

Every new year thousands resolve to take out a Personal Equity Plan (Pep). But the multiplicity of choice — at the last count more than 900 off-the-shelf plans were available — means that many abandon the search, utterly baffled by the difference between equity income and equity growth funds. Worse still, they may make entirely the wrong selection.

Those who are too busy to plough through two dozen different prospectuses which accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative are increasingly turning to services which research the market and grade the plans on offer on the lines of *Which?* magazine.

At the Allenbridge Group, which analyses Peps and the performance of private client

stockbrokers, the current best buys for cautious investors are Pembroke Growth, a UK fund, and two international funds, Perpetual Pep Growth and Newton General.

The Perpetual fund, which is 50 per cent invested in the UK and contains 300 different stocks, has provided the highest return in its sector since its launch in 1989.

As specialist funds, suitable for more sophisticated investors with diversified portfolios, Allenbridge recommends Morgan Grenfell European Growth, a European fund with no investments in the UK, and Perpetual Far Eastern, which contains a high proportion of Japanese stocks.

A further three Peps are considered suitable for any investor: Perpetual High Income, Morgan Grenfell UK Equity Income and Newton

**“The big names are some of the worst performers”**  
— Sharon Kenley



Income, all UK-based funds. Sharon Kenley of Allenbridge explains that Peps are rated on five criteria: management, risk, cumulative return (the amount by which the fund has grown) consistency and volatility. Consistency shows how well the Pep has performed on a long term basis, smoothing out the effect of brief periods of brilliance. The lower the volatility of a

Pep, the lower the risk. Any Pep that scores less than 25 on consistency and risk return combined is held to be seriously underperforming. Top rated funds score 50 points or more. Mrs Kenley notes that on Allenbridge's detailed analysis of every criterion since the launch of the fund, Perpetual is the top performing fund in its sector. She comments: “This fund should feature on

the list of any investor seeking income.”

Similarly, Newton Income is the top Pep in the UK Equity Income sector, with an annualised return of 21.66 per cent. Morgan Grenfell UK Equity Income stands second to Newton Income in this sector, with an annualised return of 15.38 per cent.

The Allenbridge ranking tables should also be helpful to those who already have a Pep but would like to transfer. Holders are entitled to transfer to another Pep with the same manager or competitor without losing the year's annual tax allowance, but most are deterred by the fear of choosing another Pep as poor as the one they have abandoned.

The firm lists close to 140 Peps with scores under 25, including plans from household names such as Allied

Dunbar, Framlington, James Capel, Lloyds Bank, Midland Bank, Sun Alliance, Sun Life and no fewer than eight from Save & Prosper, whose High Return Pep has a negative score. One of several in the table. “The big names are some of the worst performers,” says Mrs Kenley.

For those who have given up hoping their Pep will turn over a new leaf, Allenbridge can organise a transfer, often obtaining a discount of 2 per cent or more on the new plan's initial charge.

All the Pep ranking information, including the best buys, is included in the quarterly Allenbridge publication *Pep Talk*, available free from Allenbridge, Freeport SW145, London W1E 8UZ (freephone 0800 339999).

ANNE ASHWORTH

## Backpedalling by insurers on bike tagging

More than one in three new bicycles are bought to replace stolen machines. But a new security tagging system for bicycles claims to cut insurance premiums by half has been given a lukewarm reception by insurance companies.

Nationwide Property Register, the company marketing the system, has linked with a Lloyd's underwriter and Marin, a mountain bike maker, to offer a special insurance package to everyone who buys a Marin bike fitted with one of NPR's Data-tags before March 1.

Annual premiums range from £31.50 to £63.00, depending on the bike's value. The system consists of a brightly coloured warning sticker to deter thieves, plus one or more tags the size of a grain of rice secreted on the bicycle. Policemen who suspect the bike has been stolen are able to use data contained in the discs to discover the owner's name and address. But they can only do so if they have been issued with a scanner compatible with the Datatag system.

The Association of British Insurers is sceptical about the scheme. “Anything that makes a thief think twice has to be a good idea, but I don't see why he should be put off by tagging,” a spokesman said. “Unless the bike shouts ‘I'm stolen’, who's going to bother to check that it belongs to the person riding it?”

Douglas Macartney, ex-policeman and marketing director of NPR, said: “We are not saying this can necessarily prevent a crime. It would be

questionable from a legal point of view to stop and scan a bike in the street, in any case. Tagging helps secure convictions, which should have the ultimate effect of deterring criminals.” Datatags have already achieved lower insurance premiums for motorbikes, he added. “Leading motorbike insurers” suffered such huge losses in the early 1990s that rocketing insurance premiums were hitting sales.

Matsui Yamaha, which developed Datatag, claims the system subsequently cut motorcycle thefts from one in 10 a year to one in 200. But, Nor-

wich Union, which insures two-thirds of all UK motor-cycles and offers a 5 per cent premium discount on Datatagged machines, is unconvinced.

It concedes that some thieves will have been deterred, but says it cannot accept that losses have diminished to anything like the extent suggested by NPR.

The company is unwilling to offer similar discounts on tagged bicycles, but encourages the recording of post codes on the frame.

Most bicycles are automatically included under NU's household contents policies or, if worth more than £250, may be insured for an additional £8 per £100 value or, in built up areas, £10 per £100. The average claim is for £400.

All police forces are encouraged (though not obliged) to give a free service. This involves recording serial and frame numbers and stamping, or etching, the owner's post code discreetly on the bike.

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Money Observer, January 1995

Most people are woefully ignorant of the workings of even the simplest financial products, according to the results of a survey by *Financial*, an IPC publication that looks at consumer behaviour. Fewer than three in every four men fully understood how life insurance worked, and nearly two in three women were unable to explain Telford. Women are more likely to use magazines for financial guidance, and men are more likely to consult financial pages in newspapers. Curiously, while 45 per cent of women were convinced that decisions about buildings insurance were made jointly with partners, 65 per cent of men said that they had made the decision by themselves. Relatives came second only to banks as the most popular source of financial advice.

□ The Leeds Building Society is offering a five-year fixed-rate mortgage at 9.49 per cent (10.8 annual percentage rate) on loans up to 95 per cent of the property's total value. Discounts of 2.25 per cent on the society's variable rate for two years, or 1.75 per cent off for three years, are also available. Borrowers taking the fixed rate and either of the two discounts get £300 cashback and a free valuation.

□ The Birmingham Midshires Building Society has a one-year fix of 2.49 per cent on up to 60 per cent valuation. The Staffordshire is offering a 4.95 per cent discount until April 1 next year to new and existing borrowers. The Beverley is offering first-time buyers a 3 per cent discount for the first year, or 1.5 per cent for two years. There is also a cashback offer of 2.5 per cent up to £2,000, or up to £1,200 with a 1 per cent discount for the first year.

□ The Halifax Building Society has boosted savings rates in the wake of last month's half-point base rate rise. Six-month fixed-term rates on £2,000 or more have risen from 4.2 per cent to 4.75 per cent net, and on £10,000 or more from 4.5 per cent to 4.95 per cent. Monthly income rates over the same term are up from 4.8 per cent to 5.265 per cent on £2,000 plus and from 4.948 per cent to 5.441 per cent on £10,000 plus.

□ Legal & General's first “distribution bond” has achieved a 2.5 per cent return over the first six months, beating the target of 2.35 per cent announced last May. More than £130 million has been invested in the bond since its launch in June.

□ Guaranteed income bond rates are holding up well, according to the latest tables from Moneyline, a service operated by Chase de Vere.

the London financial services company. Consolidated Life is currently paying the best GIB rates over one year (6 per cent), two years (6.65 per cent), three years (6.95 per cent), four years (7.05 per cent) and five years (7.15 per cent). Moneyline also produces tables comparing the best savings rates from building society accounts, Telford and National Savings.

□ Age Concern has launched a campaign to highlight the fact that most pensioners are living in various degrees of poverty. The start of the campaign has been marked by the publication of a survey, *Short Change — the effects of low income on older people*. The report found that:

■ Half of pensioner households depend on pensions and benefits for at least three-quarters of their income.  
■ Two in every three pensioners have incomes so low that they pay no income tax.  
■ Being poor is expensive — poorer pensioners spend a higher percentage of their income on fuel and food than do other people.  
■ Many pensioners feel isolated. One in six reported experiencing symptoms relating to depression.

The charity is calling for an increase in state pensions to 33 per cent of average earnings for a single pensioner and 50 per cent for a couple. It also wants benefits to continue in full if claimants have only modest savings and small private pensions. As a first step, the savings limit for full benefit should be boosted from £3,000 to £4,000. Age Concern says.

□ Members of the public and professional advisers alike have flocked to employ the services of a special pensions advice team that has been set up by Steele & Co, the Norwich solicitor, to help people concerned about the mis-selling of pension products. The team, which gives free initial advice, may be contacted on 01603 627107.

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# Compensation reform urged for sake of aged

At stake is £20m lost by home income plan victims, says  
**Jean Eaglesham**

Pressure is mounting for reforms to the Investors Compensation Scheme after its decision to continue its legal battle to limit the compensation for elderly home income plan victims.

The ICS was created to provide a comprehensive safety net for investors who fell foul of fraud, negligence or plain bad advice by firms that then collapsed.

Its current formula for awarding compensation, however, has left many elderly people with huge mortgages they cannot repay. Now, it has won leave to appeal to the House of Lords against a ruling that would have left the victims significantly better off.

The row centres on the plight of elderly people who were sold inherently unsuitable home income plans. Money from mortgages raised on their homes were invested in insurance company stock market bonds.

Usually, the investors were promised that the returns would provide a healthy income or lump sum, as well as cover the payments on the mortgage, all with no risk to the invested capital.

Poor stock market performance, coupled with the property market collapse, left the investors with no income, bonds worth much less than the original investment, and mortgage repayments they were unable to meet.

Investors sold the plan by an insurance company have come under the Insurance Ombudsman guidelines.

In most cases, the compensation payment is enough to repay the outstanding mortgage and the Ombudsman will pay reasonable legal fees plus up to £5,000 compensation for distress.

In stark contrast to this approach, the ICS not only deducts all withdrawals from the compensation payment, but refuses to pay the mort-



The Bryans, £30,000 lost and £887 compensation

gage interest that has accrued because of withdrawals. There is no payment for distress or for legal fees.

An ICS spokesman said that the ruling (which has implications for all their cases and not just home income plans) would require the scheme to make "enormous value judgments" about what assets were of "enduring benefit". Richard Barnett, of solicitors Barnett Sarnson, who are leading the legal challenge to the ICS, believes that "money is clearly an important factor", pointing out that the Court of Appeal ruling, if upheld by the House of Lords, could add £20 million or more to the final

compensation bill. Thousands of investors will now have to wait at least another year to see if they will get full compensation.

Don and Jean Bryan have good cause to regret the day that they were persuaded by Aylesbury Associates, a Bromley financial adviser, to take out a £30,000 home income plan. Seven years on, the Investors Compensation Scheme has awarded them just £887, leaving them with a £30,000 Cheltenham & Gloucester mortgage. Initially, they were offered nothing and were offered the compensation only after legal representation.



**COMMENT**  
**ANNE ASHWORTH**  
Personal Finance Editor

## The everlasting mystery that leaves banks at an advantage

Banks have their funny little ways. Such as their irritating habit of taking more time than is necessary to credit to customers' accounts the cheques they pay in. Meanwhile, cheques written by those same customers are waved through, the funds disappearing from their accounts with uncanny speed.

The banks may feel that they have set the record straight by publishing details in their codes of practice of the working days needed to move money from one account to another. But the public refuses to be reconciled, arguing that an extra day's delay in transferring funds to an account earns interest for the bank. Over Christmas, banking periods of grace are longer than usual, with standing orders and direct debits setting out on journeys lasting almost a fortnight.

Having devised TV ad campaigns to tell us how smart they are, the banks believe that life imitates art all year round.

Unfortunately, each working day on the Personal Finance desk proves otherwise. Last week, in but one of numerous examples of Christmas banking lassitude, a reader rang Weekend Money to say that the standing order for her rent had left her National Westminster account on Wednesday December 28, but had only reached its destination on January 4.

In the interim, she received a demand for payment. The NatWest admitted that standing orders should be credited to the payee's account on the next day. At the latest, the payment should have arrived on December 30, or on January 3.

**Some bank customers will prefer to get even, rather than mad**

The spokesman emphasized that while a standing order was in transit, no-one got the benefit of any interest on the money. However, if there was some mix-up about the payment, it might sit for a couple of days in a suspense account, earning interest.

Given that £2.2 billion worth of cheques and debit cards pass daily through the banking system, even an error rate of 0.001 per cent would be profitable. This sort of interesting detail does not appear in banking codes of practice.

Analysts such as Alison Deuchars of Lehman, say that the banks are still keen to impose charges on their customers who remain in credit.

Fearful of bad publicity, each longs for a competitor to take the plunge, allowing the rest to follow.

The first bank to move will expect a hue and cry. But some customers will prefer to get even, rather than mad.

In response to an entry for charges on their statement, they will send their own demand for the interest earned by the bank on every delayed transfer and other procrastination.

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Obsolescence epitomising the moribund savings accounts in which nearly 20 million British investors have left money instead of transferring it to higher paying alternatives

## Savers lose £800m of interest

Fresh confirmation came this week that banks and building societies are sitting on a £2 billion cash mountain of savers' money. Once again this has highlighted the scandal of obsolete accounts.

A survey entitled "The great savings scam" by Which? magazine, published on Thursday, confirms earlier research by the National & Provincial Building Society. The N&P found that nearly 20 million savers are missing out on £800 million of interest by leaving their money in savings accounts which have been replaced by higher paying alternatives. In 1993, N&P decided to transfer 600,000 savers out of more than 40 old accounts and into six newer accounts paying better rates of interest.

Sadly, as further research by Weekend Money this week shows, the top banks and building societies alone have about 130 obsolete accounts between them. Only a handful have done the decent thing and automatically transferred savers into better accounts.

Those that have acted honourably, besides the N&P, include the Chel-

tenham & Gloucester, Birmingham Midshires, the Britannia, Barclays Bank, the Leeds Permanent and Lloyds Bank. NatWest and TSB have also made attempts to clear out obsolete accounts.

The laggards come up with various excuses for not transferring customers automatically. Midland, for example, writes to its customers holding obsolete accounts every year reminding them that they are no longer on sale and asking them whether they want to switch. Noel Privett, Midland's spokesman, says: "Although it would be technically possible to transfer customers' savings to new accounts automatically, new products usually differ from the products they replace in key features, and we cannot be sure what a customer would want."

He continues: "As an example,

many of the high interest rate products require a significantly longer notice period than the traditional deposit account, and we cannot assume that a customer would be happy to give, say, 90 days' notice on access to his or her money."

closed issues are no less than those paid on our instant access account." Bradford & Bingley says that the call for building societies to scrap all obsolete accounts is not what customers want and might not be in their best interests. B&B claims that research conducted by NOP on behalf of the society reveals that "most savers do not want to be automatically transferred to new accounts; they just want advice and information to help them make informed choices."

Chris Wood, head of product marketing at B&B, says: "Like the Building Societies Ombudsman, we believe that customers should, and indeed, want to, manage their own money and it has always been our policy to help customers make the right choices by giving them all the information they need."

It is important to distinguish between obsolete accounts that have been replaced by other better paying accounts to attract new savers, and limited issue bonds. These bonds are clearly promoted for a set time and mean taking a conscious decision to lock up your money for anything up to five years.

The problem with limited issue bonds is that you could be caught out by rising interest rates when bigger and better bonds may subsequently be launched. When bonds mature some savers simply leave your money to languish in a low paying alternative.

The onus to switch out of an obsolete account and into a better paying one rests firmly with you. If you are not sure what the status of your account is, check with your local bank or building society branch. You may be able to ring a special information line which will give you details on the latest interest rates. Then you have to decide whether you will be better off with the alternative.

ROBERT MILLER  
Additional research  
by Robert Boyd



Martin Finch, of Bristol & West, says: "When accounts become obsolete, or closed issues, we contact customers and advise them of other accounts that may be more appropriate to their needs. In the meantime, we ensure that the rates paid on



OBSOLETE ACCOUNTS	
Bank/building society	Account—Range of gross interest rates %
Abbey National	Five Star 0.20-0.85; Saver 0.20; Taxsaver 0.20-0.85; Optimum Bond 4.30; Seven Day 0.20; Higher Interest 0.20; Stashed Asset 0.25-1.80; Tessa 7.00; Stashed Growth Bond 6.50-8.00; Save As You Earn Transfer 4.50; SaveAsYouEarn Scheme 8.30-8.62; Reinvest Instant 4.50-7.10
Alliance & Leicester	Cashplus 0.50-4.00; Minicash 4.30-5.75; Capital Choice 4.15-5.15; Gold Plus 5.15-5.70; Gross Interest 0.50-4.80; 1990 Investment Bond 4.25; 1987 Investment Bond 4.25; Treasures 0.85-3.05; Premium Plus 4.15; Prime Plus 4.15-4.45; Investment Plus 4.15-4.80; ReadyMoney Plus 0.50; Moneybuilder Plus 0.65
Barclays Bank	No obsolete S
Bradford & Bingley	Maximiser Notes 3.05-6.85; Option 6.50; Vintage Bond 1.60-6.85; Vintage Bond 2 6.30-6.80; Vintage Bond 3 8.30-7.20; Matured Asset 0.50-4.50; Annual 6.05-6.45; Fixed Reserve 2.50; Bonus — 4.00-5.00; Premium Access 1 & 2 2.15; Real Gold — 3.80; Extra Interest 2.15; Extra Income — High Flyer 3.00-4.00; Super 90 4.20-5.20; Deposit 0.80; Flexible Savings 1.55; Tessa: SPA 1 6.35; SPA 2 5.85; Classic 1 5.60; Optimum 5.60; High-Return 16.60; Feeder 1 6.70
Bristol & West	Bonus Interest Bond 4.75-6.40; Issues 1.2 4.30; Bonus Return Bond 4.75-6.40; Issues 1 & 2; Bonus Bond (Issue 2) 4.75-6.65; Bristol 12 Month Bond 6.75-7.25; Escalator Bond 7.00-8.00; Issues 1.2 6.40; Escalator Bond 7.00-8.00; (Issue 3) Capital Maker Bond 13.00; All Guaranteed Equity Bonds (N&P); Capital Maker Tessa 13.00; Guaranteed Tessa 11.25; Chestnut Tessa 6.05; Chestnut Special 90 shares 0.25-5.50; High 30 0.40-4.00; Special Edition Bond 0.25-4.00; Savings Shares 0.85; Fully Paid Share 0.25-3.85; (Interest paid 5 monthly); Bonus Income Bond 4.85-6.64; Issue 2 (Interest paid monthly); Escalator Bond 6.75-6.65; Issues 1.2 & 4 (Monthly Income) Escalator Bond 6.75-7.75; Issue 3 (Monthly Income) Chestnut Special 90 0.25-6.37; (Monthly Income) High 30 0.40-3.55; (Monthly Income) Better Option Bond 0.25-5.55; Issues 1 & 2 (Monthly Income)
Britannia	Customers transferred automatically; Except Ordinary Share 0.80
Cheltenham & Gloucester	No obsolete accounts
Hatfield	Monthly Savings 1.50; 7 Day Xtra 1.80; 28 Day Xtra 2.15; Paid-Up Share 1.00
Leeds Permanent	No obsolete accounts
Lloyds Bank	No obsolete accounts
Midland Bank	Premier Savings 0.75-2.99; Deposit 0.75; Vector Savings 1.00; Orchard Savings 1.99-4.41
National Provincial	No obsolete accounts
Natwest Bank	Deposit 0.50; Special Reserve 0.85
Norfolk	Two Year Bond 5.10-5.50; Capital Bond Direct 6.70; Asset Reserve 0.50-4.40; Capital Bond 6.20-6.50
Norwich & Anglia	Bond & Linked Bond 6.55; Monthly Interest Option 6.05; Flexible Savings Plan 6.15-6.55; Deposit 0.50; Share 0.50; Cash Saver 1.00; Bonus Builder 0.50-3.10; Capital Bonus 1.80 3.10-4.80; Capital Bonus 80 2.80-4.10; Capital Bonus 90 2.10-4.60; (Monthly/Yearly) Income Bond 3.10-3.90; Tax Free Option Instant 0.50-3.10; Tax Free Option 80 Day 2.60-4.10; Tax Free Option 180 Day 3.10-4.60
(Ex Anglia)	Monthly Savings 1.00; TopSaver 1.80; Junior Savings 1.00
(Ex Nationwide BS)	Bonus 7 1.50; Super Bonus 1.75; Double Bonus 3.00; Bonus 90 3.75-4.45; Flex Account Passbook 0.50-0.80; Flex Account Cashlink 0.50-0.80; Subscription Share 2.10
TSB	Service 0.50; Deposit 0.50
Woolwich	(Saves Inv in Scotland) Share 1.00; Woolwich Investment Bond 6.00-7.00; Premium Investment 3.85-4.65; Prime 2.15-3.40; Guaranteed Premium Share Account 3.40; Capital Account 2.85; SuperShare 1.15-5.30 (Ex Town & Country) Current Account 1.15-5.30; Super 60 3.70-4.85; Super 80 (Type A) 5.75; Super 80 (Type B) 6.85; Super 80 (Type C) 5.85-5.45; Super 90 (Type D) 4.45

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The table shows the seven top-paying societies to retain the transfer facility.

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# Coining it in on a currency of deceit

**Tony Hetherington tracks down Rutherford, a company trading on the gullibility of investors**



Too good to be true: Philip Bailey did not believe Rutherford's claims and chose not to invest

## Not with the Woolwich — ID or not

From Mr M. E. Deedman  
Sir, Just before Christmas, my wife tried to open an account at the local high street branch of the Woolwich Building Society. She had with her a cheque for the deposit, her cheque book, her driving licence and three assorted credit cards. When these proved insufficient to convince the cashier of her identity, she produced a library ticket, a dental appointment card, a patient registration card and a collection of membership cards of various clubs — all to

no avail. In desperation, she offered me — along with my own collection of cards — but that was of no help either. What she could not produce was a gas or electricity bill in her own name and her deposit was consequently turned away. Happily, another building society was more accommodating, but I have not yet understood why the Woolwich refused my wife's deposit for "her own protection".  
Yours faithfully,  
M. E. DEEDMAN,  
21 Woodlands Road,  
Hockley, Essex.

'Then lands were fairly portioned  
Then spoils were fairly sold  
Then taxmen were like brothers  
in the brave days of old'



## Where land is king over home or castle

From Mr G. K. Lee  
Sir, Mr G. K. Moore (letter, December 31) makes a common mistake when he talks about house price inflation. It is not that houses have gone up in price excessively but that the land upon which they are built has. House costs are determined by the current building price index — land prices are determined by scarcity of desirable building sites, situation values, etc.  
It is a great pity that when the Government abolished the poll tax it did not introduce site-value rating rather than a banding based on house prices. This would have ensured that house prices remained stable and that any

increase in land values would mean a rise in rates.  
A recent survey (Costing the Earth, published by Shepherd-Walwyn) indicates that if the full annual site value of the whole country was collected, it would no longer be necessary for the Government to give any grants to local authorities and, indeed, it could also abolish income tax. Is the Chancellor listening?  
Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY LEE,  
49 Waterlow Court,  
Heath Close, NW11.

From Mr H. W. F. Foster,  
Sir, Mr G. K. Moore's letter (Weekend Money, December 31) points to the heart of the protracted economic malaise. Underlying the massive house price inflation of the Eighties was the escalating cost of land, which both governments and economists appear to ignore. Rather than levying taxation upon wealth production and capital, perhaps more attention should now be focused on the site value of land.  
Yours faithfully,  
H. W. F. FOSTER,  
4 School House,  
Old School Close,  
West Witton,  
North Yorkshire.

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## 2% Introductory Bonus



## THE PERPETUAL OFFSHORE LATIN AMERICAN GROWTH FUND. CREATED FOR THE HOT BLOODED.

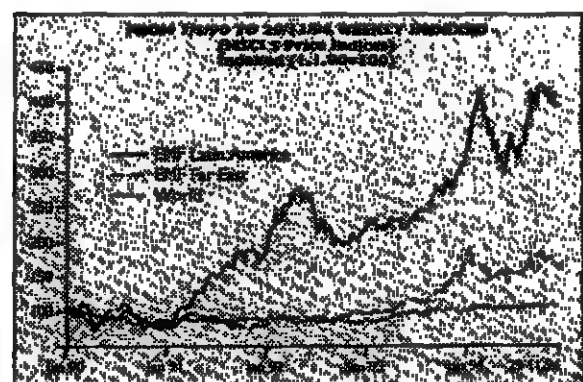
If you're looking for an investment that's a bit more adventurous, take a look at the latest addition to Perpetual's award-winning range of unit trusts.

The Perpetual Offshore Latin American Growth Fund is being launched on 31st January 1995 to provide an exciting new investment opportunity in the dynamic South and Central American stockmarkets, including Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Venezuela, Colombia and Peru.

After years of unrest and hardship, Latin America has begun a new era of

social, economic and political stability. Democracy has replaced military repression. Inflation has fallen dramatically. Productivity is booming. Commercial enterprise is flourishing. The evolution of Latin American countries from poverty to wealth is gathering momentum. As a result, the region's stockmarkets have produced outstanding investment returns. Since 1st January 1990 the MSCI Latin American Price Index, which

covers the major Latin American stocks, has risen by a spectacular 303%. This year alone the stockmarket of Brazil has increased by almost 66%.



All above statistics are in US Dollars to 29.11.94 (source: Datastream).

An investment in Latin America is not for widows and orphans. Its countries are still in the early stages of development and their stockmarkets are volatile. But in the long term, we're confident that Latin American markets should provide the hot-blooded investor with plenty of reasons to sing and dance.

## 2% Introductory Bonus Offer

The Fund will be launched on Tuesday, 31st January 1995 at the offer price of US\$1 per unit. As a special introductory offer, if you apply for units between Monday, 16th January and Tuesday, 31st January 1995 the Manager will allocate a 2% bonus in the form of additional units. So hurry! For a prospectus, phone our Customer Services Department on +44 (0)1534 607660, or contact your Independent Financial Adviser.

Alternatively, fill in the coupon below.

To: Perpetual Unit Trust Management (Jersey) Limited, PO Box 459, d'Hautville Chambers, Seale Street, St Helier, Jersey, JE4 8WS, Channel Islands. Please send me details on the Perpetual Offshore Latin American Growth Fund. Important: Please print clearly

Print Name (Mr/Ms/Ms) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

**Perpetual**

Please remember that the value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up (this may partly be the result of exchange rate fluctuations) and you may not get back the amount invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance.







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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1994 Low Company Price High % Chg PE							1994 Low Company Price High % Chg PE						
BANKS							DISTRIBUTORS						
125.00	124.00	Barclays	124.50	+0.50	+0.4	12.5	125.00	124.00	Barclays	124.50	+0.50	+0.4	12.5
110.00	109.00	HSBC	109.50	+0.50	+0.5	11.0	110.00	109.00	HSBC	109.50	+0.50	+0.5	11.0
100.00	99.00	London City	99.50	+0.50	+0.5	10.0	100.00	99.00	London City	99.50	+0.50	+0.5	10.0
90.00	89.00	Midland	89.50	+0.50	+0.6	9.0	90.00	89.00	Midland	89.50	+0.50	+0.6	9.0
80.00	79.00	Natwest	79.50	+0.50	+0.6	8.0	80.00	79.00	Natwest	79.50	+0.50	+0.6	8.0
70.00	69.00	Paragon	69.50	+0.50	+0.7	7.0	70.00	69.00	Paragon	69.50	+0.50	+0.7	7.0
60.00	59.00	Prudential	59.50	+0.50	+0.8	6.0	60.00	59.00	Prudential	59.50	+0.50	+0.8	6.0
50.00	49.00	Royal Bank	49.50	+0.50	+1.0	5.0	50.00	49.00	Royal Bank	49.50	+0.50	+1.0	5.0
40.00	39.00	Santander	39.50	+0.50	+1.3	4.0	40.00	39.00	Santander	39.50	+0.50	+1.3	4.0
30.00	29.00	TSB	29.50	+0.50	+1.7	3.0	30.00	29.00	TSB	29.50	+0.50	+1.7	3.0
20.00	19.00	Yorkshire	19.50	+0.50	+2.6	2.0	20.00	19.00	Yorkshire	19.50	+0.50	+2.6	2.0
BREWERIES							DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS						
120.00	118.00	Beck's	118.50	+0.50	+0.4	12.0	120.00	118.00	Beck's	118.50	+0.50	+0.4	12.0
110.00	108.00	Carlsberg	108.50	+0.50	+0.5	11.0	110.00	108.00	Carlsberg	108.50	+0.50	+0.5	11.0
100.00	98.00	Heineken	98.50	+0.50	+0.5	10.0	100.00	98.00	Heineken	98.50	+0.50	+0.5	10.0
90.00	88.00	Kaiser	88.50	+0.50	+0.6	9.0	90.00	88.00	Kaiser	88.50	+0.50	+0.6	9.0
80.00	78.00	Miller	78.50	+0.50	+0.6	8.0	80.00	78.00	Miller	78.50	+0.50	+0.6	8.0
70.00	68.00	Stout	68.50	+0.50	+0.7	7.0	70.00	68.00	Stout	68.50	+0.50	+0.7	7.0
60.00	58.00	Tottenham	58.50	+0.50	+0.8	6.0	60.00	58.00	Tottenham	58.50	+0.50	+0.8	6.0
50.00	48.00	Watson	48.50	+0.50	+1.0	5.0	50.00	48.00	Watson	48.50	+0.50	+1.0	5.0
40.00	38.00	Wooler	38.50	+0.50	+1.3	4.0	40.00	38.00	Wooler	38.50	+0.50	+1.3	4.0
30.00	28.00	Wooler	28.50	+0.50	+1.8	3.0	30.00	28.00	Wooler	28.50	+0.50	+1.8	3.0
20.00	18.00	Wooler	18.50	+0.50	+2.8	2.0	20.00	18.00	Wooler	18.50	+0.50	+2.8	2.0
10.00	8.00	Wooler	8.50	+0.50	+6.0	1.0	10.00	8.00	Wooler	8.50	+0.50	+6.0	1.0
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT							ELECTRICITY						
120.00	118.00	Bechtel	118.50	+0.50	+0.4	12.0	120.00	118.00	Bechtel	118.50	+0.50	+0.4	12.0
110.00	108.00	Bechtel	108.50	+0.50	+0.5	11.0	110.00	108.00	Bechtel	108.50	+0.50	+0.5	11.0
100.00	98.00	Bechtel	98.50	+0.50	+0.5	10.0	100.00	98.00	Bechtel	98.50	+0.50	+0.5	10.0
90.00	88.00	Bechtel	88.50	+0.50	+0.6	9.0	90.00	88.00	Bechtel	88.50	+0.50	+0.6	9.0
80.00	78.00	Bechtel	78.50	+0.50	+0.6	8.0	80.00	78.00	Bechtel	78.50	+0.50	+0.6	8.0
70.00	68.00	Bechtel	68.50	+0.50	+0.7	7.0	70.00	68.00	Bechtel	68.50	+0.50	+0.7	7.0
60.00	58.00	Bechtel	58.50	+0.50	+0.8	6.0	60.00	58.00	Bechtel	58.50	+0.50	+0.8	6.0
50.00	48.00	Bechtel	48.50	+0.50	+1.0	5.0	50.00	48.00	Bechtel	48.50	+0.50	+1.0	5.0
40.00	38.00	Bechtel	38.50	+0.50	+1.3	4.0	40.00	38.00	Bechtel	38.50	+0.50	+1.3	4.0
30.00	28.00	Bechtel	28.50	+0.50	+1.8	3.0	30.00	28.00	Bechtel	28.50	+0.50	+1.8	3.0
20.00	18.00	Bechtel	18.50	+0.50	+2.8	2.0	20.00	18.00	Bechtel	18.50	+0.50	+2.8	2.0
10.00	8.00	Bechtel	8.50	+0.50	+6.0	1.0	10.00	8.00	Bechtel	8.50	+0.50	+6.0	1.0
BUILDING MATERIALS							ELECTRONIC & ELECT						
120.00	118.00	Bechtel	118.50	+0.50	+0.4	12.0	120.00	118.00	Bechtel	118.50	+0.50	+0.4	12.0
110.00	108.00	Bechtel	108.50	+0.50	+0.5	11.0	110.00	108.00	Bechtel	108.50	+0.50	+0.5	11.0
100.00	98.00	Bechtel	98.50	+0.50	+0.5	10.0	100.00	98.00	Bechtel	98.50	+0.50	+0.5	10.0
90.00	88.00	Bechtel	88.50	+0.50	+0.6	9.0	90.00	88.00	Bechtel	88.50	+0.50	+0.6	9.0
80.00	78.00	Bechtel	78.50	+0.50	+0.6	8.0	80.00	78.00	Bechtel	78.50	+0.50	+0.6	8.0
70.00	68.00	Bechtel	68.50	+0.50	+0.7	7.0	70.00	68.00	Bechtel	68.50	+0.50	+0.7	7.0
60.00	58.00	Bechtel	58.50	+0.50	+0.8	6.0	60.00	58.00	Bechtel	58.50	+0.50	+0.8	6.0
50.00	48.00	Bechtel	48.50	+0.50	+1.0	5.0	50.00	48.00	Bechtel	48.50	+0.50	+1.0	5.0
40.00	38.00	Bechtel	38.50	+0.50	+1.3	4.0	40.00	38.00	Bechtel	38.50	+0.50	+1.3	4.0
30.00	28.00	Bechtel	28.50	+0.50	+1.8	3.0	30.00	28.00	Bechtel	28.50	+0.50	+1.8	3.0
20.00	18.00	Bechtel	18.50	+0.50	+2.8	2.0	20.00	18.00	Bechtel	18.50	+0.50	+2.8	2.0
10.00	8.00	Bechtel	8.50	+0.50	+6.0	1.0	10.00	8.00	Bechtel	8.50	+0.50	+6.0	1.0
BUSINESS SERVICES							ENGINEERING						
120.00	118.00	Bechtel	118.50	+0.50	+0.4	12.0	120.00	118.00	Bechtel	118.50	+0.50	+0.4	12.0
110.00	108.00	Bechtel	108.50	+0.50	+0.5	11.0	110.00	108.00	Bechtel	108.50	+0.50	+0.5	11.0
100.00	98.00	Bechtel	98.50	+0.50	+0.5	10.0	100.00	98.00	Bechtel	98.50	+0.50	+0.5	10.0
90.00	88.00	Bechtel	88.50	+0.50	+0.6	9.0	90.00	88.00	Bechtel	88.50	+0.50	+0.6	9.0
80.00	78.00	Bechtel	78.50	+0.50	+0.6	8.0	80.00	78.00	Bechtel	78.50	+0.50	+0.6	8.0
70.00	68.00	Bechtel	68.50	+0.50	+0.7	7.0	70.00	68.00	Bechtel	68.50	+0.50	+0.7	7.0
60.00	58.00	Bechtel	58.50	+0.50	+0.8	6.0	60.00	58.00	Bechtel	58.50	+0.50	+0.8	6.0
50.00	48.00	Bechtel	48.50	+0.50	+1.0	5.0	50.00	48.00	Bechtel	48.50	+0.50	+1.0	5.0
40.00	38.00	Bechtel	38.50	+0.50	+1.3	4.0	40.00	38.00	Bechtel	38.50	+0.50	+1.3	4.0
30.00	28.00	Bechtel	28.50	+0.50	+1.8	3.0	30.00	28.00	Bechtel	28.50	+0.50	+1.8	3.0
20.00	18.00	Bechtel	18.50	+0.50	+2.8	2.0	20.00	18.00	Bechtel	18.50	+0.50	+2.8	2.0
10.00	8.00	Bechtel	8.50	+0.50	+6.0	1.0	10.00	8.00	Bechtel	8.50	+0.50	+6.0	1.0
CHEMICALS							ENGINEERING						
120.00	118.00	Bechtel	118.50	+0.50	+0.4	12.0	120.00	118.00	Bechtel	118.50	+0.50	+0.4	12.0
110.00	108.00	Bechtel	108.50	+0.50	+0.5	11.0	110.00	108.00	Bechtel	108.50	+0.50	+0.5	11.0
100.00	98.00	Bechtel	98.50	+0.50	+0.5	10.0	100.00	98.00	Bechtel	98.50	+0.50	+0.5	10.0
90.00	88.00	Bechtel	88.50	+0.50	+0.6	9.0	90.00	88.00	Bechtel	88.50	+0.50	+0.6	9.0
80.00	78.00	Bechtel	78.50	+0.50	+0.6	8.0	80.00	78.00	Bechtel	78.50	+0.50	+0.6	8.0
70.00	68.00	Bechtel	68.50	+0.50	+0.7	7.0	70.00	68.00	Bechtel	68.50	+0.50	+0.7	7.0
60.00	58.00	Bechtel	58.50	+0.50	+0.8	6.0	60.00	58.00	Bechtel	58.50	+0.50	+0.8	6.0
50.00	48.00	Bechtel	48.50	+0.50	+1.0	5.0	50.00	48.00	Bechtel	48.50	+0.50	+1.0	5.0
40.00	38.00	Bechtel	38.50	+0.50	+1.3	4.0	40.00	38.00	Bechtel	38.50	+0.50	+1.3	4.0
30.00	28.00	Bechtel	28.50	+0.50	+1.8	3.0	30.00	28.00	Bechtel	28.50	+0.50	+1.8	3.0
20.00	18.00	Bechtel	18.50	+0.50	+2.8	2.0	20.00	18.00	Bechtel	18.50	+0.50	+2.8	2.0
10.00	8.00	Bechtel	8.50	+0.50	+6.0	1.0	10.00	8.00	Bechtel	8.50	+0.50	+6.0	1.0







# Callisoe Bay to justify tall reputation

By RICHARD EVANS  
RACING CORRESPONDENT

NEVER mind the lack of quantity, enjoy the quality. Despite disappointingly small fields, particularly at Haydock where three televised races have attracted a total of 14 runners, the overall standard of this afternoon's racing should appeal to the jumping purist and the punter.

Although only five horses go to post for the Baring Securities Tolworth Hurdle at Sandown, the race promises to be a cracking contest with Callisoe Bay, arguably the best novice hurdler seen this season, being taken on by the unbeaten Silver Wedge and highly regarded Major Summit.

The £25,000-added grade one contest should whet the appetite for a fascinating run-

**RICHARD EVANS**

Nap: AAL EL AAL  
(1.30 Haydock Park)  
Next best: Challenger Du Lac  
(3.35 Haydock Park)

ning, half-an-hour later, of the Anthony Milward, Peter Cazalet Memorial Chase when that talented mare Dubacilla will be out to advertise her Cheltenham Gold Cup claims.

In the Lambourn valley, the words Callisoe Bay and defeat are not mentioned in the same breath. The confidence which comes from Oliver Sherwood's stable over the six-year-old is reflected by the attitude of his jockey, Jamie Osborne. "Normally I am a pessimist but this horse has taken my perception of what a good horse is to a different level. If he doesn't win on Saturday I will be absolutely gutted."

Today will decide whether the relatively inexperienced recruit to the jumping game merits such rave reviews and a Champion Hurdle entry — or whether he is the latest talking horse to temporarily hypnotise racegoers.

The son of Callenham has to concede 12lb to Silver Wedge, David Nicholson's quirky but talented four-year-old, while Josh Gifford's supporters will point to the fact that the three horses immediately behind Major Summit at Kempton have all won since. However, I cannot look beyond Callisoe Bay.

While the feature chase at Sandown has attracted ten runners, several are badly out of form and the quarter that stand out are Dubacilla, Deep



Dubacilla, left, seen winning a duel with Rough Quest at Ascot last year, is fancied to strengthen her Gold Cup claims at Sandown today

Bramble, Mr Boston and Flyer's Nap, unbeaten this season and in all completed chases, is at the top of his form and deserves his chance in this company, but I marginally prefer Dubacilla. The mare, reunited with Dean Gallagher, is closely related to the

Grand National runner-up, Just So, so should relish her first attempt at this distance and the soft ground.

Haydock is one of Martin Pipe's favourite hunting grounds and together with Richard Dunwoody he looks

set for a successful afternoon. Minnehoma, winner of last season's Grand National, invariably runs well on his seasonal debut and the 12-year-old can set the Nicholas Hayne ball rolling by beating only two opponents to

land the Newton Chase. Big Strand can continue the good work at the chief expense of the Len Lingo-trained Forbidden Time in the Makerfield National Hunt Novices' Hurdle while Challenger Du Lac is a confident choice to follow up his smooth Uttoxeter suc-

## King's Theatre moves to New York

By JULIAN MUSCAT

KING'S Theatre, winner of the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot, is to leave Henry Cecil's Newmarket stable to continue his racing career in the United States.

The son of Sadler's Wells, who also looked like winning the Derby until caught by Eusebio, is the first male winner of Britain's midsummer championship to join the American circuit. He takes his place in the New York stables of Bill Moss, one of five American trainers employed by Shaikh Mohammed.

The Shaikh raced King's Theatre last year in partnership with Michael Poland, the colt's breeder, but recently bought Poland's stake. The four-year-old is by some way the best racehorse the Shaikh has sent to the US.

Anthony Stroud, Shaikh Mohammed's racing manager, explained the move yesterday. "There are plenty of opportunities there for a horse like King's Theatre and the prize-money is another incentive. If he stayed in Europe, he could realistically have run in the Coronation Cup, the King George and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe."

"We also have Carnegie, and possibly Pennekamp and Goldmark, for that type of race and with Balanchine and Muhtarram around, they will be extremely competitive. We think King's Theatre's style of running will be suited to America."

Moss has few peers among his contemporaries in handling Turf horses. His most recent protégé was Paradise Creek, who started favourite for the Breeders' Cup Turf before finishing third at Churchill Downs in October. King's Theatre will be aimed at the Breeders' Cup and possibly the Japan Cup.

## Minnnehoma to return in style

HAYDOCK PARK  
BBC1

1.00: Tartan Tyrant has much going for him. He has successfully carried big weights in soft ground and has winning form over these demanding fences. An improving sort, he is a more reliable jumper than Cashier Fleur. Padventure is now in the handicapper's grip.

1.30: Flakie Dove's absence deprives Kadarof of a winning opportunity. The five-year-old is now burdened with top weight and faces an in-form opponent in Aal El Aal. Unlike Surrey Dancer and Gynmarch Starmoon, the selection has winning form in soft ground.

2.00: General Pershing had beaten just two horses on his two previous outings before winning at Wetherby. He is usually found winning in this league. That leaves Katabatic, now 12 years old, and Minnehoma, who has not run since winning the Grand National in April. In the selection's favour is that he goes in the ground and runs well fresh.

SANDOWN PARK  
C4

1.20: Spree Cross returned to form with a comfortable defeat of Coonawarra last month and has bright prospects. With Wonder Man out of sorts and Cyphrate lacking a recent run, the nine-year-old has Country Lad and Around The Horn to beat.

1.50: Callisoe Bay's connections have been making bold predictions of their horse, who is sure to start at prohibitive odds. He may well win, but a line through On Air suggests there is not too much between Callisoe Bay and Chief's Song. That line may flatter Chief's Song, although whether Callisoe Bay can give 12lb to Silver Wedge is more debatable. A group winner on the Flat, Silver Wedge has progressed with each outing and represents good value here.

2.25: See above.

JULIAN MUSCAT

## HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1.00 Tartan Tyrant    | 2.30 Forbidden Time    |
| 1.30 Surrey Dancer    | 3.00 Banjo             |
| 2.00 General Pershing | 3.35 Challenger Du Lac |

### GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

100 (12) 0-4-4-2 6000 TIMES 74 (20.00 F.A.S.) (M) 8-10-0 — 8 West (4) 88  
Racecard number. Draw in brackets. So figure form (F = fall, P = pulled up, U = unraced, R = runner, G = good, S = stepped up, H = hit, L = lost, D = disqualified) Horse's name. On each line, the first figure is the horse's number, the second is the horse's name, the third is the horse's age, the fourth is the horse's sex, the fifth is the horse's colour, the sixth is the horse's trainer, the seventh is the horse's jockey, the eighth is the horse's weight, the ninth is the horse's handicap, the tenth is the horse's race, the eleventh is the horse's time, the twelfth is the horse's place, the thirteenth is the horse's odds, the fourteenth is the horse's odds, the fifteenth is the horse's odds, the sixteenth is the horse's odds, the seventeenth is the horse's odds, the eighteenth is the horse's odds, the nineteenth is the horse's odds, the twentieth is the horse's odds.

GONG: SOFT

1.00 NEW YEAR HANDICAP CHASE (25,000: 3m) (5 runners) BBC1

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 1111-140 TARTAN TYRANT 30 (20.00 F.A.S.) (M) 8-10-0 — 8 West (4) 88 | 2 4032810 COKE 12 (12.00 F.A.S.) (M) 8-10-0 — 8 West (4) 88        |
| 3 611-233 PADVENTURE 12 (12.00 F.A.S.) (M) 8-10-0 — 8 West (4) 88     | 4 1122-121 AAL EL AAL 25 (12.00 F.A.S.) (M) 8-10-0 — 8 West (4) 88 |
| 5 1222-121 AAL EL AAL 25 (12.00 F.A.S.) (M) 8-10-0 — 8 West (4) 88    | 6 1222-121 AAL EL AAL 25 (12.00 F.A.S.) (M) 8-10-0 — 8 West (4) 88 |

Long Hurdle: 1111-140 TARTAN TYRANT 30 (20.00 F.A.S.) (M) 8-10-0 — 8 West (4) 88

SETBACK: 4-1 Tartan Tyrant, 3-1 Cashier Fleur, 4-1 Hadden Vain, 10-1 OK Corral

1994: MEETING ABANDONED — FIRST

FORM FOCUS

TARTAN TYRANT last 5 runs: 1st in 5 runs, 2nd in 1 run, 3rd in 1 run, 4th in 1 run, 5th in 1 run

COKE last 5 runs: 1st in 1 run, 2nd in 1 run, 3rd in 1 run, 4th in 1 run, 5th in 1 run

PADVENTURE last 5 runs: 1st in 1 run, 2nd in 1 run, 3rd in 1 run, 4th in 1 run, 5th in 1 run

AAL EL AAL last 5 runs: 1st in 1 run, 2nd in 1 run, 3rd in 1 run, 4th in 1 run, 5th in 1 run

Long Hurdle: 1111-140 TARTAN TYRANT 30 (20.00 F.A.S.) (M) 8-10-0 — 8 West (4) 88

SETBACK: 4-1 Tartan Tyrant, 3-1 Cashier Fleur, 4-1 Hadden Vain, 10-1 OK Corral

1994: MEETING ABANDONED — FIRST

FORM FOCUS

KADASTROF last 5 runs: 1st in 1 run, 2nd in 1 run, 3rd in 1 run, 4th in 1 run, 5th in 1 run

SURREY DANCER last 5 runs: 1st in 1 run, 2nd in 1 run, 3rd in 1 run, 4th in 1 run, 5th in 1 run

SALMAN last 5 runs: 1st in 1 run, 2nd in 1 run, 3rd in 1 run, 4th in 1 run, 5th in 1 run

STARMOON last 5 runs: 1st in 1 run, 2nd in 1 run, 3rd in 1 run, 4th in 1 run, 5th in 1 run

Long Hurdle: 1111-140 TARTAN TYRANT 30 (20.00 F.A.S.) (M) 8-10-0 — 8 West (4) 88

SETBACK: 4-1 Tartan Tyrant, 3-1 Cashier Fleur, 4-1 Hadden Vain, 10-1 OK Corral

1994: MEETING ABANDONED — FIRST

FORM FOCUS

KADASTROF last 5 runs: 1st in 1 run, 2nd in 1 run, 3rd in 1 run, 4th in 1 run, 5th in 1 run

SURREY DANCER last 5 runs: 1st in 1 run, 2nd in 1 run, 3rd in 1 run, 4th in 1 run, 5th in 1 run

SALMAN last 5 runs: 1st in 1 run, 2nd in 1 run, 3rd in 1 run, 4th in 1 run, 5th in 1 run

STARMOON last 5 runs: 1st in 1 run, 2nd in 1 run, 3rd in 1 run, 4th in 1 run, 5th in 1 run

Long Hurdle: 1111-140 TARTAN TYRANT 30 (20.00 F.A.S.) (M) 8-10-0 — 8 West (4) 88

SETBACK: 4-1 Tartan Tyrant, 3-1 Cashier Fleur, 4-1 Hadden Vain, 10-1 OK Corral

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FORM FOCUS







# Injury forces Hull to miss resumption of season

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

PAUL HULL, the England full back, will miss the resumption of league rugby in England today — a day with overtones for the imminent five nations' championship and the World Cup, which is now less than five months away.

A nagging Achilles tendon injury has forced Hull to withdraw from the Bristol side to play Bath, the Courage Clubs Championship leaders, at the Memorial Ground, The England side to play Ireland will be named on Tuesday and, assuming Hull is included, he will surely be one of several players required to prove their fitness by playing league rugby next Saturday.

Despite the hopes of the England management that its full squad would be available for training over the weekend, Hull will be joined on the sidelines, for example, by Jason Leonard, of Harlequins, and Victor Uboegbu, of Bath, and while rest and recuperation may, in principle, be conducive to peaking in May during the World Cup, the management would be dismayed if a lack of fitness manifested itself in Dublin on January 21. Nor are England's leading clubs any happier about the next two months.

"Some clubs, and England, will reap the whirlwind of bad planning," Brian Ashton, the Bath coach, said yesterday. "The England XV will be competing in three competitions in the next four months and that is before the fourth competition — the World Cup. Players will be coached in three different styles on the English scene."

Wales side... Page 40

That excludes our Scottish international, Andy Reed, and our Irish international, Simon Geoghegan. League matches, cup-ties and internationals all require varied coaching approaches. Everybody at the highest level could be polling in different directions."

Hull's absence allows Dave Bennett, 22 and formerly of Newcastle, Gosforth, his league debut for Bristol against a Bath side also lacking David Hilton (required by Scotland A), Reed (strained back muscles) and, voluntarily, Steve Ojomoh. The time may not be far away when Ojomoh will put his personal ambitions ahead of club loyalty and seek a move for the sake of regular first-team rugby.

Ireland, whose league also resumes and whose international side will be announced on Monday, will monitor English doings. Two of their certainists, Geoghegan and Nick Poppell, appear for Bath and Warrington respectively, with Poppell, the British Isles prop, making his league debut against Gloucester.

Leicester should make the most of the short trip to Northampton: a trick of the fixture list (some might put it stronger than that) gives them no home rugby after next weekend until March — unless the cup is kind to them. Their match will be refereed by John Pearson, who, in common with all referees in the five leading divisions for the remainder of this season, will be entitled to wield red and yellow disciplinary cards today.

The cards will also be used in remaining cup and county championship matches in what the Rugby Football Union (RFU) regards as an experiment. The system will almost certainly be used during the World Cup.

Dixon Edwards, the Leicester centre, was confirmed yesterday in the Welsh side to play France in an A international in Paris on January 21. A revamped pack includes Andrew Kambury, of Neath, alongside Gareth Taylor, of Pontypool.

WALLS: At 1, Jones (Lancashire); 2, Mervyn (Pontypool); 3, Edwards (Leicester); 4, Bennett (Bristol); 5, Reed (Scotland); 6, Geoghegan (Ireland); 7, Poppell (Bath); 8, Ojomoh (Bristol); 9, Ashton (Bath); 10, Leonard (Harlequins); 11, Uboegbu (Bath); 12, Hull (Bristol); 13, Bennett (Newcastle); 14, Reed (Scotland); 15, Geoghegan (Ireland); 16, Poppell (Bath); 17, Ojomoh (Bristol); 18, Ashton (Bath); 19, Leonard (Harlequins); 20, Uboegbu (Bath); 21, Hull (Bristol); 22, Bennett (Newcastle); 23, Reed (Scotland); 24, Geoghegan (Ireland); 25, Poppell (Bath); 26, Ojomoh (Bristol); 27, Ashton (Bath); 28, Leonard (Harlequins); 29, Uboegbu (Bath); 30, Hull (Bristol); 31, Bennett (Newcastle); 32, Reed (Scotland); 33, Geoghegan (Ireland); 34, Poppell (Bath); 35, Ojomoh (Bristol); 36, Ashton (Bath); 37, Leonard (Harlequins); 38, Uboegbu (Bath); 39, Hull (Bristol); 40, Bennett (Newcastle); 41, Reed (Scotland); 42, Geoghegan (Ireland); 43, Poppell (Bath); 44, Ojomoh (Bristol); 45, Ashton (Bath); 46, Leonard (Harlequins); 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Saturday portrait: George Graham by David Miller

## Inner conflict casts dark clouds over carefree character

A year ago, George Graham, the manager of Arsenal, was given the freedom of the Borough of Islington, one of only six people to be thus honoured in a quarter of a century. Today, as Arsenal prepare to face Millwall in the FA Cup third round for the second year in succession, it will cross the mind of Graham, and maybe also his directors, how much longer he will enjoy the kudos of having been given the freedom of Highbury.

Born the youngest of six in 1944 in Bargeddie, Lanarkshire, where his father, Robert, was a steelworker at Coatbridge but died when he was only three weeks old, it has been a worthy rags-to-riches story for Graham. Yet now the relative riches and all the success he attained as a player and subsequently achieved for Arsenal, as their manager since 1986, are clouded with doubt.

If it were merely the charge that his team is boring, never mind its six trophies in eight seasons, Graham could probably ride that with equanimity. The boardroom, more sensitive to silverware than style, has been content enough on that front. The doubt runs a deeper, more serious vein.

There has been evidence of indiscipline among the players off the field, including drunkenness at the wheel, the absence of self-control occasionally being reflected by events on the field. For a manager allegedly so totally in charge, the blame must be carried along with the acclaim.

Arsenal are not a brutal team, but they are certainly not always on the side of the angels, especially if their FA Cup final against Sheffield Wednesday is recalled from 18 months ago. Arsenal could be said to epitomise that disagreeable credit-card advertisement: they take the wait out of waiting.

Events of recent weeks, however, have added to the stress on Graham's tenure. Paul Merson, the international midfield player, was exposed not only as a cocaine addict, but a heavy, habitual drinker. How had Graham remained unaware of this?

Simultaneously, Arsenal are

sliding towards a position in which relegation, for the first time in the club's history, is a possibility, having only six months ago won the Cup Winners' Cup, defeating Parma in the final, and accusations that Graham accepted a substantial commission for the transfer of John Jensen from Denmark are under investigation by the FA Premier League.

Whether or not Millwall, the club with which Graham so promisingly began his managerial career in 1982, are defeated today, this is not a happy New Year for him. The malevolent joke on the terraces at Highbury is that the clock at one end now has three hands: a big hand, a small hand and a backhand.

How did Graham get it wrong, when his career carries a cate-

**'For a manager so totally in charge, the blame must be carried along with the acclaim'**

logue of so much that he got right, often with distinction? People are driven by the forces of instinct, of education and experience, and in these Graham has found a conflict between the instinct of a fine, naturally reactive player, the education of childhood hardship in which his mother, Jenny, reared six children on a widow's pension, and the experience of the English game, in which the borderline between morality and expediency, both in the laws of the game and laws of life, runs an often tortuous, uncertain path.

Somewhere along the undefined, unqualified road by which players undergo the metamorphosis into managers, with all the responsibility of man-management, Graham changed from a carefree, relaxed personality, first to the bar and known to his colleagues as Stroller, into a sharper, more calculating and

withdrawn figure; hypersensitive to criticism, yet unwisely brash in the conduct of his complicated private life, and revealing an increasing preference for the more physical player who would, in the game's vernacular, deliver.

Frank McLintock, a former Arsenal captain, who roomed with Graham when they were players in the 1971 team that won the League and FA Cup double, relates that, at about the time Graham became coach with Queens Park Rangers in 1980 and then manager of Millwall two years later, Graham began psychologically to wear a mask that the benign Stroller seemed to melt away. This change is reflected in Graham's comments.

On criticism of Arsenal by Trevor Brooking, a former exemplary midfielder player for England and West Ham: "Brooking doesn't know what the winning mentality is about. He doesn't know what it takes to win a championship, he was never in a team that won it. I won it as player and manager. I know what it takes." And on Eric Cantona's subtleties with Manchester United, the dual champion: "Cantona is a cry baby when the going gets tough."

Graham's reluctance to use Anders Limpar, a flowing Swedish winger — absent from all 17 matches when Arsenal won both domestic cups in 1993 — dismayed Arsenal's more discerning supporters. Not all Highbury followers have the fanatical attitude of Nick Hornby, the acclaimed author of *Fever Pitch*, who shares Graham's obsession with winning at almost any cost.

Discussing the kind of midfield quality he admires, and having failed to extract the best from Thomas, Davis, Rocastle and others, Graham particularly praises Soumess, McMahon, Batty and Ince, all players noted for an expedient streak. "We're direct," Graham claims, as though that were sufficient virtue, as though he has forgotten his own artistic contributions with Aston Villa, Chelsea, Arsenal and Manchester United.

The insecurity of his childhood



ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

he proudly wears as a badge. Scottish managers such as he and Alex Ferguson are successful, he says, because "we're all working-class lads, which toughens you up for the real world." Real? It is the world in which, to quote Danny Blanchflower, his very antithesis, "you get your retaliation in first".

Graham rides the contradiction knowingly yet uneasily. "I've never asked the team to play the long ball," he asserts in answer to the

boring tag. Yet in the next breath he is saying: "Sometimes I get criticised, but I just keep winning." And again: "Despite what some people think, I'd like the team to play with a bit more flair... we're doing some things wrong in English football, the demands are too great."

When Arsenal were humbled by Benfica in the European Cup three seasons ago, Graham admitted afterwards: "I felt inexperienced,

foolish, naive." The pain of that embarrassment turned him, as similar experiences did with Sir Alf Ramsey and Don Revie, further down the expedient, destructive road. Now, never mind the six trophies, he finds the Arsenal Supporters Association calling for his head.

English football is a hard arena, sometimes unnecessarily hard, where there is no hiding place. In opting for the mask, for the

menace of toughness, Graham may ultimately have made the wrong choice, for all his success.

If, despite a reputed salary in excess of £200,000 a year, his financial probity is found wanting, some Highbury spectators will feel doubly betrayed. Peter Hill-Wood, the Arsenal chairman, who has given Graham so much of a free hand, may yet find himself reluctantly needing to sever the handshake.

## Time to lighten Warne's workload

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN BRISBANE

SHANE Warne needs a rest. His friends and mentors say as much, even his team-mates fear as much, yet the most powerful commodity in world cricket — and, by definition, the most overworked — will this week undergo yet more of the travel-practice-play routine of a trivial one-day event instead of taking a break.

There is a degree of surprise here that Warne is in the Australia party for tomorrow's World Series qualifier against Australia A and Tuesday's game, back in Melbourne, against England. Australia are virtually guaranteed a place in the finals and, through the week, the suggestion that he would be rested, instructed to take time completely away from the game, had gathered strength.

It is not that Warne has requested time off. On the contrary, he is anxious to play in every game and to bowl every available over. Nor is there any official admission that he is suffering from an injury. Indeed, Bob Simpson, the Australia coach, gave a particularly snappy denial to a journalist who questioned him on this theme during the Sydney Test.

Simpson, however, is no longer an Australian selector and the noises emanating from those who are indicate a growing concern that Warne's shelf-life needs protecting, even if his priceless bowling shoulder does not.

Errol Alcott, the Australia physiotherapist, admits that Warne has a problem with his shoulder. Terry Jenner, the former Test leg-spin bowler and a guiding force behind Warne's career, speaks of tendinitis. Richie Benaud, who knows about shoulder injuries from his own, later painful experience as a wrist-spinner, says such injuries need either rest or surgery.

Warne, it appears, has no time for either. He has bowled 164.2 overs in the three Tests, not only because he is the best of the Australian bowlers, but because, without him, it looks a limited attack. He has little time left for Sheffield Shield cricket, but, when he did appear for Victoria, he was asked to play for Christmas, he wheeled through 64 overs.

The temptation for state and national sides to keep bowling Warne is immense, for he will win games when others mark time. The fact that he approaches his workload with such enthusiasm is another distinctive to the cotton-wool treatment. However, an in-

### DETAILS

	P	W	L	Pts
Australia	4	2	2	8
England	4	2	2	8
Zimbabwe	5	1	4	10

PREVIOUS RESULTS: Dec 2: Australia bt Zimbabwe by 2 wds (Perth); Dec 4: Australia bt Zimbabwe by 5 wds (Perth); Dec 6: Australia bt England by 26 runs (Sydney); Dec 8: Australia bt Zimbabwe by 84 runs (Perth); Dec 10: Australia bt Zimbabwe by 7 wds (Melbourne); Dec 11: Australia bt Zimbabwe by 100 runs (Melbourne); Dec 12: England bt Australia A by 31 runs (Melbourne); Dec 13: Zimbabwe bt England by 13 runs (Sydney).

MATCHES TO COME: Today, England v Zimbabwe (Brisbane); Tomorrow, Australia v Australia A (Brisbane); Jan 10: Australia v England (Melbourne); Jan 12: Australia v England (Sydney); Jan 13: Test final (Melbourne); Jan 15: Second Test (Melbourne); Jan 16: Third Test (Melbourne).

creasing number of people in the Australian game are beginning to believe that their greatest asset will be destroyed unless he is persuaded to take the odd mid-season holiday.

Privately, even Warne may agree. His appetite for the lifestyle seems immense, his gregarious personality dealing engagingly with constant and irritating attention, but his new manager, Austin Robertson, has not been employed so that Warne can adopt a lower profile and, for as long as he is taking wickets, the demands will continue to rise. In South Africa last year, he snapped. He did it on the field

and at the expense of an innocent batsman, for which he offers heartfelt regrets, but his nerves were frayed by the fact that his time was never his own, even behind his hotel door after midnight.

Those in charge of the Australia team may soon have to say enough is enough. When the Ashes series ends, the team flies to New Zealand for another chaotic fortnight of one-day cricket. Warne could easily miss this dubious treat, for he will have little rest, on or off the field, when he arrives in the Caribbean in March for another Test series of long-term relevance.

Yesterday, basking in relief rather than euphoria after the Ashes had been retained, this was one of several concerns for the Australians. The lack of runs for Michael Bevan and the lack of wickets for Tim May were two more areas requiring urgent attention.

Bevan has been tentative in all he has done and his technique has been exposed by the England seam bowlers. He has managed only 81 runs in six innings, of which five ended in catches by the wicketkeeper or slip cordon. It is as worrying a sight for the many Yorkshiremen present, viewing their new overseas player, as it is for the Australians.

May was a hero on Thursday, for his batting stoicism alongside Warne, but in his primary function, as one of four bowlers, he is in a trough. His one wicket of the series was taken in his opening spell, on the second day of the first Test, and, if his captain, Mark Taylor, appeared to have lost confidence in him in Sydney, May's short and misdirected bowling did nothing to make him rethink.

That Bevan has been dropped to the A team for tomorrow's World Series match here may have no relevance when it comes to the next Test, almost three weeks hence. However, it has further devalued this limited-overs event as, farcically, Bevan will have played in both games involving the two Australian teams, but on different sides.

Victory for the A team tomorrow would make it very difficult for England to reach the finals, no matter how they fared today in their third attempt to beat Zimbabwe. Whatever the result, the chances are that England will be having a week off while the finals are played. Michael Atherton, encouraged now to believe the Test series can still be squared and alert to the increasing anxieties of the team leading 2-0, may not consider that a bad thing.

## Flirtation with football truncated by mishap



**SIMON BARNES**  
On Saturday

THIS column, always eager to explore that strange country, that narrow and most perplexing ecotone where sport and literature coexist, brings a vital communication on football from none other than Gabriele D'Annunzio, poet, writer, adventurer, proto-fascist and, in 1919, the dictator of Fiume. It has just been discovered that D'Annunzio not only played football, at least once, but also wrote about it to a lady professionally known as Barbarella, more properly known as Elvira Fraternali. She played Ippolita in D'Annunzio's *The Triumph of Death*.

The above work, however, is not, as far as I know, about football. Football, far more important than the triumph of death, as later observers were to point out, is covered in a letter: "Adored Barbarella, yesterday afternoon, seeking to strike with my wonderfully prehensile foot, the left one, a ball of most excellent leather with an English air chamber, acquired from Tosti in London, I completely failed to make contact and fell to earth without the aid of my hands. As if the constant threats of my creditors were not enough without football coming into it as well! How much blood I have shed, amore mio! Two of my teeth fell out! Enough, enough of ball games!"



### Double sorrow

What does a footballer do when beaten 11-1 in division four of the Sheffield Sunday League in Sheffield? Same as he goes to the pub. So, there were the defeated Priory Lodge Hotel, bottom of the league and freshly hammered by Groom 93, taking liquid solace in their local, Steve Ellams, the manager, meanwhile got on with loading the gear into the team van, a white Ford Escort. Then he rejoined the players. Alas, he had dumped the stuff in the wrong Ford Escort. Same colour and the key fitted; but someone else's. What's worse, that someone drove off and has not been seen since.

### Burnings love

As this week's hero of the week, I salute Andre Rison, a

wide receiver with the Atlanta Falcons. It seems that Rison had some kind of misunderstanding with his girlfriend, a rap singer by the name of Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes. So Lisa set fire to his mansion and burnt it to the ground. She was arrested, pleaded guilty to arson, was fined \$10,000 and sentenced to five years' probation. There in court, speaking on her behalf, was Rison himself. The pair held hands and exchanged as many hugs and smiles as a couple reasonably could. Rison told the judge: "I guarantee you this will never happen again." No doubt he has only the one mansion, Rison told reporters: "It was a great learning experience."

season in the English championship. You see that, after having had everything, successes and disappointments, victories and championships, one regret remains and only one, England! Bruno's nickname in football has always been *a animal*.

### Village joy

Cricket book title of the year so far: *Of Smittie Spots and Sticky Buns: one hundred years of village cricket in Westmorland and North Lancashire* by John Glaister. The book, which mixes much research with a leavening of humanity, is available at £10 from Westmorland Gazette Newspapers, 22 Strickland Gate, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4NE. It begins in verse, by Philip John Glover, one stanza of which follows:

"What's happening, Dad? Curious passenger enquiries. Village cricket, son," he distantly conspires With days from summers past, good times, a lost friend, Forgotten fours and unfinished end.

### Row stopper

Best reason for cancellation of a sporting event: the Walton Small Boats Head, with more than 600 entries, was cancelled when the National Rivers Authority closed the river because of cyanide escaping into the River Wye, which joins the Thames at Bourne End. No rowers were poisoned; thousands of fish were.

### Time out

Is rugby union the most sedentary of all ball games? Denys Sargent, irritated at stop-start internationals, took a stopwatch to several games and writes to tell me the results. During matches lasting from 83 to 86 minutes, the ball was in play for between 26 and 30 minutes. That compares with an average 60 minutes in football.

## Cork soon in the swing South Africa triumph

ALAN WELLS believes his England A team are ready to explode a few myths about playing cricket in India after their 96-run victory against India Youth yesterday.

Dominic Cork, the seam bowler, defied 80°F temperatures to bowl unchanged between lunch and tea, including a burst of three for six during his two-hour marathon, to break the back of the Indian resistance and finish with figures of four for 46.

Ian Salisbury, the leg spinner, who took his match haul to nine for 141 with three more wickets, and Richard Simpson, the left-arm spinner, who took two for 19, provided the support as victory came 27 minutes after tea. Wells was delighted with Cork's valiant effort and the fact that he managed to get enough swing to prove effective in Indian conditions.

Wells said another important lesson from his side's opening first-class match was not to accept the traditional view of English batsmen struggling against Indian spinners and English spinners failing to trouble Indian

batsmen. "To be honest, I haven't so far been over-impressed with the way their batsmen have gone about playing our spinners," Wells said, "and it's just a load of rubbish to say Englishmen can't play the spin over here."

India Youth, resuming on 21 for one and chasing 289 to win, were, at one stage, 136 for three and looked capable of giving the A team a fright on a pitch playing a little better than on the previous three days, even though Cork had made an important early strike by having the talented Anil Muzumdar caught at second slip in the fifth over.

The fourth-wicket pair, Jatinder Singh and Sriharan Sharath, added 103, playing with increasing freedom before Cork had Singh caught behind for 63 with an outswinger. Sharath and Samir Dhebe, the Indian side's captain, still looked a danger, but, at 158, the match swung dramatically England's way as three wickets fell in successive overs.

SOUTH Africa became only the second team in Test history to win a three-match series after losing the opening game when they beat New Zealand by seven wickets in Cape Town yesterday. The only previous time the feat has been achieved was in 1888, when W.G. Grace led England to a 2-1 win over Australia.

Hansie Cronje, the South African captain, fittingly struck the winning boundary off Matthew Hart, the left-arm spinner, after his side had been set a victory target of only 88. Gary Kirsten and Rudolph Steyn, the opening batsmen, were dismissed with the total on 37 and Daryll Cullinan departed after a brisk 28 from 24 balls. However, Cronje and John Commins ensured there were no more alarms.

New Zealand had begun the final day 31 runs adrift, on 121 for four, and were indebted to Stephen Fleming and Simon Doull in being able to set a target approaching three figures. Fleming was given a remarkable "life" when he had scored nine; a vociferous appeal for a catch by Cronje at silly

point resulted in Fleming being given out, even though he had not offered a shot and his bat and gloves seemed a long way from the ball.

Fleming had almost reached the pavilion when the South African umpire, Barry Lambson, appeared to change his mind and recalled the 21-year-old, to the amazement of the South African fielders. Fleming went on to make 53.

At the start of the day, New Zealand's main hopes had appeared to rest with Bryan Young and Shane Thomson. Young, however, added only nine to his overnight 42 and Thomson was run out for 16 in bizarre fashion. The all-rounder stretched forward to the spin of Clive Elstons and maintained his perfect defensive posture for a full five seconds as Cronje fielded the ball at silly point and then threw down his stumps. The umpires used television replays, which showed Thomson to be out by several centimetres, to make their decision.

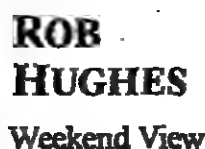
Scoreboard, page 36

Scoreboard, page 36



Dr. J. H. L. S. O.

• Last summer, released from the way that Alex Ferguson, the United manager, treated him almost as a protected species, Giggs earned more than at any time in his fledgling career. He has adorned calendars, glamour shots, duvet covers and has had girls on his arm and at his feet. It is laughable, he declared last weekend, to suggest



"With one opponent at his elbow, another trailing him two yards away, he glided over the next 40 yards. He never glanced back and he touched the ball only once to maintain its momentum before, a stride inside the penalty area, he chipped the goalkeeper as if his left foot were a golfing iron. From his

In retrospect, there is a pang of conscience about publishing such a condemning observation, but we are entitled to ask what is happening, for such a player is vital to our enjoyment of the game. A *Times* reader, Ron Matthews, 72 years young, wrote suggesting that it was wrong to call Griggs world class. "In simple terms, I don't think he can play," Matthews wrote. "His final pass is a wild swing of his left foot with no vision."

The crux of the matter, Ferguson

Perhaps that has gone — and so, too, has talk of AC Milan, or anybody, offering £10 million for "the boy" — but, in 1995, I long to hear George Best be given cause to repeat what he said two years ago: "Giggs does things for his team that nobody else in the game can match."



## Illustrious third-round visitors offer possible glimpse of the future

As a manager, he has always lived life on a roller-coaster of success and emotion. His rows with Stari Flashman, his chairman at



The only surprise was that it took Fry so long to be appointed at a big club. Even when he arrived at Birmingham, things did not go well at first. Twelve months ago, instead of

By the end of the season, though, they were clearly too

### **A Club Distinguished**

Clean sheets are only part of the story. As would be expected from a side managed by Fry, Birmingham are the leading scorers in the second division. Liverpool be warned.

**The heavy physical demands of the congested Christmas programme exact a high toll in terms of injuries. Andrew Longmore reports**

clubs with smaller squads and more desperate managers. "At

football on bad pitches? The predominance of 0-0 draws in

the second round of games after Christmas told its own

**By Russell Kempson**

should prove decisive.

**Popescu: Oculul**

**we don't freeze on the day."**

WIMBLEDON: A Thorn, D Holdsworth, O i

Leonhardsen.

# FOURTH ROUND OF THE FA CUP

## Third-round record over last ten years

	W	L	D
Aberdeen	1	0	0
Aberystwyth	1	0	0
Aston Villa	7	0	0
Aylesbury	7	0	0
Barnsley	2	5	4
Birmingham	2	4	4
Blackburn	2	0	0
Bolton	2	0	0
Bristol Rovers	2	0	0
Burnley	0	6	6
Cardiff	2	3	1
Cardiff City	2	3	1
Carlisle	7	1	0
Charlton	7	1	0
Chelsea	7	1	0
Colchester	2	3	1
Coventry	2	3	1
Crysal Palace	4	5	0
Derby	4	5	0
Exeter	1	4	3
Gillingham	6	4	0
Grimsby	6	4	0
Leeds	6	5	0
Leicester	2	0	0
Liverpool	2	0	0
Luton	7	3	0
Manchester City	10	1	0
Manchester Utd	10	1	0
Middlesbrough	4	6	0
Milwall	4	6	0
Newcastle	6	4	0
Nottingham	6	4	0
Norwich	4	2	0
Norwich Forest	4	2	0
North County	4	2	0
Oxford	4	6	0
Plymouth	4	6	0
Portsmouth	4	6	0
QPR	4	6	0
Reading	3	0	1
Sheff Wed	9	0	1
Sheff Utd	7	3	0
Southampton	3	4	1
Southend	3	4	1
Spoke	3	4	1
Sunderland	4	5	0
Swindon	2	6	4
Tottenham	6	4	0
Walsley	1	4	0
Wolves	1	4	0

Widford	6	1	0
West Brom	4	7	1
West Ham	1	9	7
Wimbledon	2	1	0
Worcester	2	6	1
Wrexham	2	1	0
Wycombe	0	2	0

## Premiership clubs This best

	W	L	D
Manchester Utd	10	1	0
Sheff Wed	9	1	0
West Ham	8	1	0
Aston	8	2	0
Everton	8	2	0
Nottingham	8	2	0
Sheff Utd	7	3	0
Chelsea	7	3	0
Wimbledon	7	3	0

## The worst

	W	L	D
Crysal Palace	2	8	0
Leicester	2	8	0
Coventry	4	6	0
QPR	4	6	0
Leeds	6	5	0

## Endingle League clubs The best

	W	L	D
Barnsley	7	3	0
Luton	7	3	0
Sheff Wed	7	3	0
Widford	6	4	0

## Poor records

Widford have not survived the third round in each of the last four years after progressing six years in the first round.

Exeter have lost their last two third round ties.

Scarborough and Wycombe are the only English league clubs in the draw who have never reached the fourth round.

Tottenham have only passed the third round six times and the fourth round once.

## Non-league records

Aldershot have beaten more league teams than any other non-league side (15, including Wycombe this season).

Exeter have beaten 10, including Cardiff and Torquay this season.

Widford's last visit to the third round was in 1953, when they lost 5-1 to Tottenham. The Great Marlow, who were one of the founding clubs of the original competition in 1871 and are the only club to have played in the cup every year since its inception. The second team they have beaten Oxford United and Woking. This is Aylesbury's first appearance to the third round after wins over Newport (2-0) and Kingston.

## League v non-league

Tottenham have never been beaten by non-league opposition since the competition was revived in 1926.

Queens Park Rangers have been defeated four times last period — by Oldford, Margate, Watlington and Hereford.

Leicester have lost once since 1926, in a replay against Harlow Town in 1985.

Swindon have been defeated five times — by Southall, Hastings, Woking, Tooting and Middlesbrough and Dagenham.

## Historical problems

Coventry have lost three and won only one of their FA Cup ties against West Bromwich Albion.

Grimsby beat Norwich in their only previous encounter in the first round.

Luton lost Bristol Rovers 2-1 after three previous ties.

Manchester beat Wolverhampton Wanderers in their only meeting in the cup.

## Historical revivals

Swindon have beaten Derby seven times in their 10 cup meetings.

Birmingham meet Liverpool for the sixth time today having lost four and won one of their previous six.

# JULIAN DESBOROUGH



### Popescu: doubtful

### PREMIERSHIP CASUALTY LIST

First team players who either missed games over Christmas or who are still injured

ARSENAL: A. Adams, E. McGoldrick,  
ASTON VILLA: none  
BLACKBURN ROVERS: D. Barry, K. Gallowcher,  
CHELSEA: S. Minto, D. Wise, D. Houghton,  
COVENTRY CITY: D. Dublin, D. Bust, B. Borrowes, S. Robinson, L. Hirst,  
CRYSTAL PALACE: J. Salsoko, S. Rodgers,  
EVERTON: G. Abbott  
IPSWICH TOWNE: M. Stozekow, N. Thompson, J. Marshall, S. Milton, J. Ward,  
G. Williams, P. Morgan, S. Sadoyley,  
LEICESTER CITY: J. Joachim, S. Walters  
LEEDS UNITED: A. Dorgo  
LIVERPOOL: J. McInnes  
MANCHESTER CITY: K. Cunn, A. Coxon, R. Edgill, A. Hill, N. Cunn, M. Vonn,  
MANCHESTER UNITED: P. Parker, P. Schmeichel, P. Ince, A. Kanchelkova, L. Sharpe,  
D. Cooper, B. Brown  
MIDLANDS UNITED: P. Aspin, M. Allen, S. Solari  
NORTHAMPTON: B. Gunn, M. Bowen, J. Buttenworth, K. O'Neill, A. Johnson,  
NOTTINGHAM FOREST: L. Bohinen, J. Lee, M. Rosario, D. Phillips, C. Cooper  
OCEANS PARK RANGERS:  
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: D. Hird, A. Strain, R. Jones,  
SOUTHAMPTON: S. Chenilton,  
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: N. Berry,  
WEST HAM UNITED: D. Hughes  
WIMBORNE: A. Dorgo, R. Holdgate, G. Leonardsson.



## RACING 34

CHAMPION JOCKEY  
FACING FURTHER  
THREE-WEEK BAN

## SPORT

SATURDAY JANUARY 7 1995

## GOLF 36

DEXTER MAKES  
HIS MOVE IN  
PRESIDENT'S PUTTER

## Leeds look forward to signing Yeboah



Dowie on the move

By PETER BALL  
AND RUSSELL KEMPSON

LEEDS United's search for a striker is expected to end tomorrow with the signing of Anthony Yeboah from Eintracht Frankfurt. The Ghana international spent yesterday in Leeds before returning to Frankfurt to consider the deal.

"There are one or two things to think about but Leeds are my favourite English club and I hope I will sign for them," he said. Leeds are confident of the move going ahead. "We are 99 per cent certain he will sign," Bill Fotherby, the managing director, said.

Yeboah has played for Eintracht for four years and scored 18 goals in 21 appearances for the Bundesliga club last season. However, at 30, it will be interesting to see how well

he adapts to the pace and constant challenge of English football.

If Yeboah signs he will be the second of the three Eintracht players suspended for refusing to take part in extra training to come to England, following the trail laid by Maurizio Gaudino, the Germany international, to Manchester City.

Southampton were also active in the transfer market yesterday, when they signed Neil Shipperley, 20, the Chelsea forward, for a club record £1.2 million. Southampton will, initially, pay £750,000, with the fee rising when he has played an undisclosed number of matches.

"Neil has a good all-round game and excellent positional sense," Alan Ball, the Southampton manager, said. "I have the people to give him the ammunition to score goals and I'm certain he will blossom. He

has great potential and I'm looking forward to helping him become as good as he wants to be. He is now the No 1 centre forward here."

Shipperley, like Ball, anticipates good times ahead for the partnership with Matthew Le Tissier, Southampton's leading goalscorer and arch playmaker. "Matt is an exceptional player," Shipperley said. "If I can get into the gaps, he'll get the ball to me. I can't wait to start playing alongside him."

The arrival of Shipperley coincided with the departure of Ian Dowie, whose six-month contract dispute at The Dell was finally concluded when he joined Crystal Palace for £400,000. However, like Shipperley, the Northern Ireland striker will not play in the FA Cup third round. Southampton's new boy was not signed in time for the tie at home

to Southend United today, while their old boy is cup-tied for the match against Lincoln City tomorrow.

Alan Smith, the Palace manager, is in desperate need of firepower — his side has not scored in nine successive FA Carling Premiership matches — and was equally mystified over reports of a £4 million bid by Newcastle United for Chris Armstrong, the Palace forward. "I can't speak for my chairman (Ron Noades) but I know nothing about it," Smith said. "Armstrong is still vital to our needs to get away from the relegation area."

It was not all bright and breezy for Ball yesterday, as he was charged by the Football Association of bringing the game into disrepute. Keith Cooper, the referee, from Pontypridd, banished Ball to a seat

in the stands during Southampton's 2-2 draw at Queens Park Rangers on December 28 after he had argued with a linesman.

The FA has charged Ball with misconduct, after studying the reports of the officials, and he could face a touchline suspension if found guilty. He has been in trouble with officials on three previous occasions, and was banned from the touchline for a month in 1986.

Aston Villa yesterday agreed to pay £2.9 million for Tommy Johnson and Gary Charles, of Derby County. Brian Little, the Villa manager, concluded three weeks of negotiations with Derby when he increased his initial offer by £500,000.

Johnson, 23, a forward, and Charles, 24, a full back, were expected to sign last night after

further talks. Mark McGhee, the Leicester City manager, also made his first signing for his new club when he completed the transfer of Jamie Lawrence, 24, a winger, from Doncaster Rovers for £175,000.

Peter Shilton, the Plymouth Argyle manager, has threatened to sue the Endsleigh Insurance League second division club after he was suspended, on full pay, and told to stay away from Home Park on Wednesday. He had failed to pay a £50,000 tax demand. However, Shilton's solicitors claim Plymouth's actions are in breach of his contract and have asked for him to be reinstated.

Giggs's struggle, page 39  
Festive price, page 39  
Baoyant Fry, page 39  
Obituary, page 19

## Prospects improve for resolute Mansell

Oliver Holt witnesses the support of an army of followers as the former world champion is linked with both McLaren and Benetton

THE wailing of tongues and gnashing of teeth, the bewilderment of a generation of motor-racing supporters, who, for years, had been swept along on a tide of Mansell

mania, came to an abrupt and happy halt yesterday. Their hero may have been spurned by the Williams Formula One team, but yesterday, amid the adoration of his followers, he came out fighting.

Since Williams confirmed on Tuesday that David Coulthard would partner Damon Hill to the team next season, Mansell has maintained a dignified silence, save for issuing a brief statement congratulating the young Scot, thanking Williams for past collaborations and remaining enigmatic about his future.

He was just regrouping, gathering himself for the fight ahead. He leapt up off the canvas yesterday, strutting around a stage at the National Exhibition Centre outside Birmingham, exhorting a compliant crowd at the Autosport International show to tell him who he should drive for next year.

"McLaren," they yelled in unison.

Mansell's chances of landing a top drive in Formula One next season certainly appear to be increasing by the day, to the point where it is now a probability rather than a possibility. McLaren is, indeed, a strong likelihood and

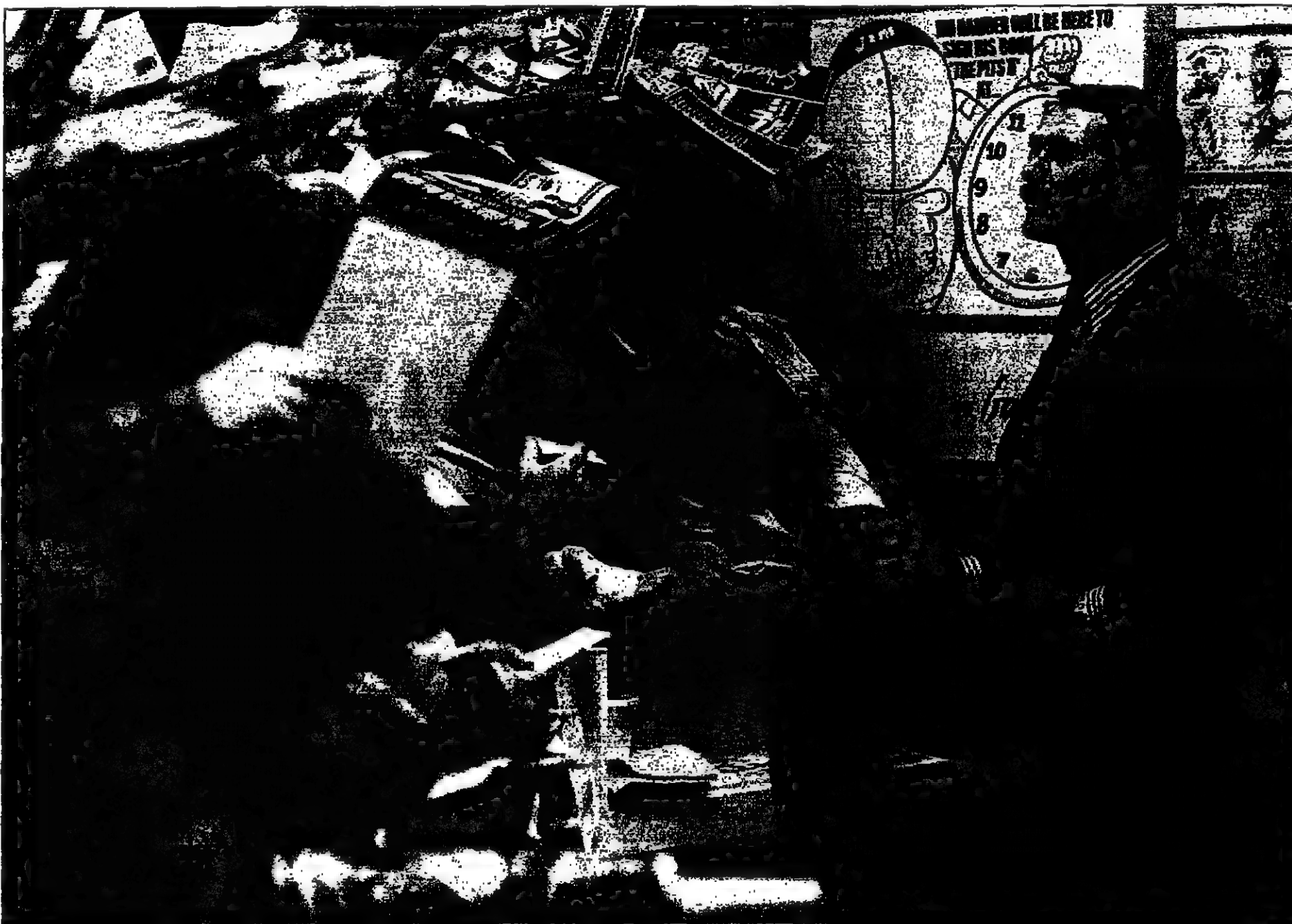
negotiations with Ron Dennis, the team's managing director, have begun already.

Dennis said on Thursday night that he would announce whether Mansell or the present incumbent, Martin Brundle, would partner Mika Hakkinen next season, but sources close to the 1992 world champion insisted last night that intensive discussions were also underway to pair Mansell with Michael Schumacher in a Benetton "dream team". Johnny Herbert, who everyone presumes will get the job, would then be forced back to Ligier.

Whatever happens, it seems that rejection by Williams has not dulled Mansell's competitive desire or pushed him towards the option that his supporters feared most: retirement. "That is not a word in my vocabulary at the moment," Mansell said yesterday, minutes before he danced onto the stage, spraying champagne over his audience.

"The fire is still burning as strongly as ever," he told them. "You give me the strength and will to carry on. While I have your support, I will always try to continue racing. Just seeing you all here gets everything straight in my mind."

Some mock Mansell for his affection for his supporters, but even the sceptics were impressed yesterday with the way he worked the crowd and



Mansell mania breaks out at Birmingham's NEC yesterday as supporters surround their Formula One idol hoping for an autograph. Photograph: Marc Aspland

the motivation that they, in turn, give him is undeniable. The reception he received is likely to spur him on in his quest for a seat in Formula One next season.

Bernie Ecclestone, the supremo of Formula One, is also likely to be pressuring Dennis to take Mansell and Mercedes McLaren's new engine partner, may help to pay his salary if they see him as a valuable figurehead for the

high-profile stage of their return to Formula One.

From the stage, Mansell was led through the throng to open an exhibition featuring grand prix cars throughout the last four decades. He sat on an old Lotus, no doubt with the thought of his Formula One beginnings flickering through his mind, the desire for future glories still intact.

"For the first time for years and years, I had a proper

holiday this Christmas," he said. "But, after a few days, I was already missing the competitive edge. We will still have to be a little patient before we know what is happening next year. I would not necessarily have to drive for a team capable of winning the championship. Potential and commitment — that would make up for a lot."

"I am open-minded about the future. I am not short of

opportunities in a number of categories, including Formula One. The focus still has to be grand prix racing because I came back for the last three races of last season and got good results. You do not change your focus after that."

Then he turned to the crowd again. "Do you want me to keep racing?" he asked. "Yes," they roared. "Go and tell Ron Dennis," he said. Mansell's comeback had begun.

## Leg injury fateful for Graf

STEFFI GRAF will be unable to defend her Australian Open women's tennis title (Stuart Jones writes). She injured a calf muscle during training in Florida, and announced yesterday that she had no choice but to withdraw from the tournament, which begins in Melbourne in ten days time.

It completes a miserable sequence of injuries for the world No 1. A back problem that troubled her persistently was aggravated during her defeat in the final of the US Open against Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and she was beaten in the opening round of the Virginia Slims championship in New York in November.

Graf said: "It's not the way I wanted to start 1995. It's very frustrating. I had got rid of my back pain, but I do a lot of stretching. Maybe I tried to do a little too much. Time away from the game this autumn made me realise how much I missed it. I could certainly see myself playing another five years if I could get over this injury."

## Wales recall Jones for Paris match

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RUGBY union purists, both in and outside Wales, received a seasonal gift from the Wales selectors yesterday: Robert Jones, the scrum half capped 48 times between 1986 and last year, was restored to the side that will begin its defence of the five nations' championship against France in Paris on January 21.

Jones, 29 and one of four changes from the XV which lost to South Africa in November, has been the subject of contention over the last two years. In fact, ever since the Wales management appeared to prefer the direct, physical skills of Rupert Moon, Llanelli's English convert, to the more rounded game of the Swansea player.

Two factors determined Jones's recall: first, the strong set-piece game played by Wales against the South Africans; second, Jones's own showing when he captained the Barbarians to victory over the touring side in Dublin a week later. "Robert demonstrated in that game how good he can be," Alan Davies, the Wales coach, said yesterday.

Some would argue that Wales, for all their success in the championship last year and their qualification for the World Cup, have needed Jones's qualities for some

time. Even though his experience includes two tours for the British Isles, he has played only twice in Wales's last 20 games: most recently, against Portugal in Lisbon last May. "I was hoping to get the nod, but I wasn't particularly confident," Jones said. "When the call came through, I was as delighted as I have ever been. I wanted the opportunity to play World Cup rugby this summer and now I have been given it."

Indeed, scrum half was the position that occasioned the greatest consideration, as it is an area of genuine strength in depth for Wales. "The debate became quite academic in a rugby sense," Davies said, "because we also have Paul John playing outstanding rugby for his club, but we feel he has more to learn compared with Robert and Rupert. International rugby is about experience and temperament and not simply technique, which

can easily break down under the pressure."

Even though Wales have been hit badly by injuries this season, on top of the loss to rugby league last year of Scott Gibbs and Scott Quinnell, they have been able to call upon experience, which will stand them in good stead against the French, whose team will be selected in Toulouse tonight. Emyr Lewis, Hemi Taylor and Steve Williams could not be considered

for the Wales back row, but the restoration of Phil Davies at No 8 for his first international for three years, with Stuart Davies at blind-side flanker, adds a hard edge to the pack.

Phil Davies, Wales's most-capped forward with 44, has played 17 games at lock, 25 as a No 8 and two on the flank, and Robert Norster, the Wales manager, recalled his storming game when he moved to the back row in Paris two years ago, after injury to Lewis. The likelihood is that Wales will use Davies's lineout skills at the front and move Gareth Llewellyn around, leaving Richie Collins to mop up the pieces with Stuart Davies, who was last capped against Japan in 1993.

Injury has also removed Mike Rayer, Iwan Evans and Nigel Davies, but Nigel Walker reclaims his place on the wing.

Wales vs France: A Clement (Swansea), W T Pencer (Llanelli), M R Hall (Cardiff), M Taylor (Pontypool), R Webster (Cardiff), M R Jervis (Pontypool), R N Jones (Swansea), R L Evans (Llanelli), G R Jenkins (Swansea), J D Davies (Llanelli), S Davies (Swansea), D Jones (Cardiff), G O Jones (Llanelli), M Evans (Cardiff), R G Collins (Pontypool), P T Davies (Llanelli). Replacements: M Back (Bridgend), R H Sullivan (Llanelli), R L Jones (Llanelli), A H Cooper (Llanelli), M Griffiths (Cardiff), R G McIsaac (Llanelli).

Philip Browne, 33, a former rowing international, will be the next secretary of the Irish Rugby Football Union.



Robert Jones, left, and Stuart Davies at the Arms Park yesterday.

Holt ruled out, page 37

## Summer Holidays in glorious Devon



Half Board only £32 Per Person Per Night SAVE £10

Based on 2 people sharing a twin or double room for 7 nights. Additional nights £27.50 per person. Perched on a cliff top above the picturesque fishing village of Lymington, the Valley of Rocks Hotel offers traditional accommodation in classic Victorian style.

The hotel has 71 bedrooms, each with private bathroom or shower, TV and tea & coffee making facilities. There is a beautiful gallery lounge, The Stag and Stable bar and a terrace bar with panoramic views across the Bristol Channel to the Welsh Coast.

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GARDENING

George Plumptre catches up on winter jobs

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PLUS: Italian tips on orange growing, page 9

COLLECTING

The real art in buying original prints

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PLUS: News from the Salcrooms, page 11

TRAVEL

Cruising: man goes overboard at the buffet

Page 20

PLUS: Discover unspoilt Spain, page 19

ARTS

If the shoe fits, put it on show in the gallery

Page 5

PLUS: Richard Morrison, page 5

# WEEKEND

## COMMUTING: ALL WORK AND NO DAY

By Guy Walters

**L**isten to this. "The idea of doing it for another ten years would fill me with total and complete horror. Every day is a misery. I hate it, and I hate getting up at 6.20." What could Ilias Mavroleon, 47, husband, father and stockbroker find so horrifically repellent? Yes, it's *commuting*, a word that makes many blench at its very mention.

Mr Mavroleon estimates that the time he spends commuting is equivalent to 39 days in a year. He has commuted the 50 miles by train from his home in Blewbury, Oxfordshire, to London, for 14 years — one-and-a-half years of commuting. "Commuters don't commute because they like commuting," he says. "they do it for their families. You live and breathe those 39 days a year to give your family a better lifestyle. It is a sacrifice, but you put up with it."

The lifestyle that commuting offers him, and *ergo* the reason for his commuting, is plain to see. The Mavroleons live in a five-bedroom house worth about £300,000, and they have a large garden. Blewbury is a desirable village — "probably one of the best places to live anywhere" — and Mr Mavroleon, his wife Maggie, and their four teenage children are fully paid-up members of it. "We're three minutes walk from the open countryside on the Berkshire Downs, we have a delightful old English pub 30 seconds away, there is a cricket club, a football club, the amateur dramatic society, the Conservatives — there is everything in Blewbury," he says. But the village is no dormitory town: the high cost of the season ticket prevents that. Mr Mavroleon's ticket (first class) costs him £431.20 a month — just over £5,000 a year. "I think I deserve first class," he says.

**B**ut why does Mr Mavroleon commute to London when the stockbroking firm he works for has offices in the nearer towns of Newbury and Oxford? "Because London's where the action is," he says. "People expect me to be at the hub — so it's a necessary evil." Then why not live in London? "We decided to leave because we wanted fresh air and space for the kids — a nice environment rather than that in the middle of London."

For many, there is little choice but to face the daily grind of travelling miles to work. Most offices are in cities and most homes are not. Yet many people could work from home, and many offices could be based *ex urbis*. Commuting helps to uphold this geographical stagnation, but despite rail-strikes, traffic jams, expense, time and plain stress, many continue to commute.

"There is no real sign that commuting is slackening," says Dr Martin Frost of the Department of Geography at King's College, London. "If anything, there is an upward movement. If you take the period 1981 to 1991, between the two most recent censuses, you find that there is an increase of 7 per cent in numbers commuting into what were Greater London Council areas. In Birmingham, commuter numbers have increased by 18 per cent, and in Manchester it is as high as 29 per cent. The numbers travelling by train into London have risen by 5 per cent."

Rufus Barnes, secretary of the London Regional Passengers' Committee, is concerned that British Rail will not be able to handle a further increase. "During the recession," he says, "BR took the opportunity of scrapping a lot of its old rolling-stock. We already have overcrowding on some lines, we could be beginning to face something much more serious."

Despite the problems of commuting, and the incentives sometimes offered to companies

Continued on page 3, col 1

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GALLERIES

Richard Cork

**ROMANTIC SPIRIT:** Last chance to see the Hayward Gallery's immensely ambitious survey of Romanticism in German art. Rather than limiting the show to Caspar David Friedrich and his successors in the 19th century, the explosive emotionalism of Expressionism is included, and so is the alarming nationalism of Hitler-approved art. Then, in the aftermath of the Second World War, Joseph Beuys sums up a remarkable transformation. His ominous floor-sculpture, "The End of the Twentieth Century", brings this epic exhibition to a brooding, ambiguous close.

Hayward Gallery (071-928 3144). Last day tomorrow.

**REBECCA HORN:** Last chance, too, for a flamboyant double bill by one of Germany's leading contemporary artists. At the Tate Gallery, Rebecca Horn has taken the dignified Duveen Gallery and turned it into a roller-coaster of eruptive sculpture. A grand piano, suspended from the roof of the octagon, suddenly bursts open. Pistols swirl and fire, knives slice through paint brushes, and a suitcase whizzes up and down a pole. Horn reveals another side of her complex personality at the Serpentine Gallery, where a gentler rhythm and smaller works prevail, and even a showpiece like "The Peacock Machine" adopts a quieter mood.

Tate Gallery (071-887 8000) and Serpentine Gallery (071-402 6075). Until tomorrow.

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

**OTELLO:** There are countless reasons for catching the Royal Opera's latest revival of Elijah Moshinsky's handsome production — for a start, it's a pretty good opera. Elena Prokhina sings her first Desdemona in London, and she is joined by her compatriot Sergei Leiferkus, one of the creepiest of all lags. And Dennis O'Neill, that most Italianate of British tenors, climaxes a career that has embraced Mozart, Donizetti and the heaviest Verdi roles with his first attempt at that Everest of the repertoire, the Moor himself. Carlo Rizzi conducts. Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (071-304 4000). Fri 13. 7.30pm. £

**FIGARO'S WEDDING:** Straightforward, solid repertory revival of Graham Vick's production — if that sounds like faint praise, you are reckoning without the genius of



Mozartian comic insight in Figaro's Wedding

Mozart, whose comic insight and heartfelt compassion shine through with beacon-like clarity. There are especially sharp contributions from some of the supporting players — Susan Bickley's handsome Marcelina, John Connell's rueful Bartolo, and Sally Harrison's lethal Barbarina. Derrick Inouye conducts. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161). Wed 11. 7pm. £

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

**PICTURE PROMENADE:** Like virtually all museums in Britain, Glasgow's Art Gallery and Museum at Kelvingrove is blessed (or plagued, depending which way you look at it) with far more in its collection that it can ever show at one time. Now an upstairs corridor has been refitted to provide a sort of open store where up to 180 otherwise hidden paintings can be shown. The first exhibition includes not only relatively obscure works from the Hague School, the Glasgow Boys and the Scottish Colourists, but also famous names such as Renoir and Van Gogh. Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow (041-357 3929). Daily 10am-5pm.

**IT'S PLASTIC:** During the century that they have been current, plastics have been regarded as a substitute for "real" materials or as a thing-in-itself, as a symbol of chic modernity or something essentially cheap and nasty, as Utopian or environmentally destructive. Whichever way, they have been inescapable, and this international touring exhibition, in its only British venue, examines all the possibilities, aesthetic and technological, throughout plastics' relatively brief history. Design Museum, Butler's Wharf,



Drei Kinder by Georg Schrimpf (1926), part of the Hayward Gallery's ambitious exhibition of "The Romantic Spirit in German Art"

Shad Thames, London SE1 (071-407 6261). Monday-Friday 11.30am-6pm, Saturday-Sunday noon-6pm, until April 23. Museum admission £4.50, concessions £3.50.

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

**A TALE OF TWO CITIES:** With Oliver! at the Palladium and A Christmas Carol at the Barbican, Dickens is enjoying a well-deserved revival. But he is nowhere better served than by Matthew Francis's production, which brings tension, gusto, pathos and political punch to one of his thinner novels. Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Evenings, Monday to Saturday at 7.45 pm; matinees, Saturdays at 2.30 pm.

**ION:** Surprising how contemporary Euripides's tale of the orphan who finds his parents becomes in Nicholas Wright's production. Hermes and Athena may appear on the cast-list, but the pain of childlessness and the joy of reunion cross the centuries. Phil Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Evenings, Wednesday January 11 to Saturday January 14, 7.15pm; matinees Thursday 12 and Saturday 14, 2pm.

More theatre on page 6.

DANCE

John Percival

**AFTER THE LAST SKY:** Rosemary Butcher, the most radical of British dance creators, has devised a unique presentation in collaboration with the independent film-

maker David Jackson and the composer Simon Fisher Turner. Lifesize video projections of six leading contemporary dancers will be shown simultaneously on four screens. Admission is free. Royal College of Art (Upper Gulbenkian Gallery), Kensington Gore, London SW7. Monday Jan 9-Sunday 15, 10am-6pm.

**THE NUTCRACKER:** Last chance today to see Peter Wright's production for Birmingham Royal Ballet at the London Coliseum (071-532 8300) and Peter Darrell's for Scottish Ballet at the Festival Theatre, Edinburgh (031-529 6000). But Ben Stevenson's staging for English National Ballet continues at the Festival Hall until January 14, and will be followed by a week of Swan Lake, January 16-21. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800).

FILM

Geoff Brown

**AMATEUR (15):** Cult director Hal Hartley steps out of the rut he fell into in *Simple Men* with a uniquely cockeyed romantic thriller about a nymphomaniac nun (Isabelle Huppert), an amnesiac pornographer (Martin Donovan), and some incriminating floppy discs. Hartley persists with his cryptic visual style and circular dialogue, but the plot gives the film more momentum than usual, and by the end you even start to care for the fate of the leading characters: two lost souls, amateurs at living. Barbican Cinema (071-638 8891). Lumiere (071-636 0691). Odeon Kensington (0426 914666). Odeon Swiss Cottage (071-586 3057). Re-moix (071-837 8402).

**STARGATE (PG):** In which Egyptologist James Spader and Kurt Russell's crack team of military muscle walk through a mysterious circular portal, hurtle through time and space, and arrive on a far-distant planet stocked with down-trodden slaves, a bison-like remnant of the *Star Wars* films, and a hermaphrodite dictator (Jaye Davidson from *The Crying Game*). Lacks originality, but great fun. Odeon Leicester Square (0426 915683).

More films on page 6.

ROCK

David Sinclair

**JOE JACKSON:** Jackson has led his band a merry dance since he first made his mark as one of the more intelligent New Wave acts to emerge in the late 1970s. Unfortunately, the more interesting and unique his work has become the more the market for it has dwindled. But he can always be relied upon to turn in a disciplined and generous live show.

Civic Hall, London Road, Guildford (0483 444555), Jan 13-14; Guildhall, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth (0705 824355), Jan 20; Hammersmith Apollo, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (081-741 4868), Jan 21; Colston Hall, Colston Street, Bristol (0272 262857), Jan 22; Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Square, Nottingham (0602 482626), Jan 25; Newcastle City Hall, Northumberland Road (091-261 2606), Jan 26; Free Trade Hall, Peter Street, Manchester (061-834 1712), Jan 28; Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow (041-332 6633), Jan 29; Birmingham Symphony Hall (021-212 3333), Jan 30; all shows 7.30pm.

**JODECI:** The fact that the American quartet Jodeci can fill the 12,000-capacity Wembley Arena for two nights while still struggling to maintain a profile that is little short of invisible, speaks volumes about the shabby way in which R&B music is treated in this country. Yet the group's sophisticated combination of harmony soul and swingbeat dance rhythms obviously commands a huge following. Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Middlesex (081-900 1254), Jan 13-14.

Richard Morrison

**HINDEMITH THE REBEL:** That is the somewhat hopeful title given to the BBC's three-day Barbican festival (also broadcast on Radio 3) devoted to rehabilitating the 20th-century composer whose reputation is for conservatism and prosaic craftsmanship. The BBC will have to work pretty hard to convince modern audiences that Hindemith can rival his contemporaries, Stravinsky and Bartók, for musical excitement. Still, the BBC has mustered a terrific line-up of soloists and ensembles. Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891), Fri 13 to Sun 15, three concerts daily.

**YOUNG ARTISTS, NEW MUSIC:** From Monday to Friday this week, twice nightly, the Park Lane Group presents its annual showcase of Britain's finest young performers playing 20th-century music. It's an invigorating week for those who like to spot the stars of tomorrow. To make a living these young players will soon have to suppress their instinct for adventure, so catch them while they are still idealistic. Purcell Room, Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), Mon-Fri, 6pm and 7.30pm each night.

See Hilary Finch, page 6.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

**ANNIE ROSS:** Though the lugubrious songs did her few favours, Annie Ross enjoyed a new burst of popularity last year, thanks to Robert Altman's cult film *Short Cuts*. In fact she was so persuasive in her role as a jaded, over-the-hill saloon singer that some of us wondered where the acting ended and real life began. It was a relief to find that she was in superb shape when she played the Cult Royal soon after the film's release. The voice has lost some of its flexibility, but Ross's charisma and her subtle acting skills give her performances wonderful depth. She will be appearing with a rhythm section featuring the sensitive pianist David Newton. Pizza On The Park, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (071-235 5273). Mon to Sat 28 (excluding Sundays).

**GEORGE COLEMAN:** A huddle of tyro saxophonists, all of them eager to learn the tricks of the top trade, can often be found on the premises when George Coleman pays a call at Ronnie Scott's. A member of that select band of musicians called upon to play with Miles Davis, Coleman spent around a year with the trumpeter's band. More of a technician than a poet, he sometimes wears down his listeners with over-extended double-time solos. But on an inspired night his playing is an invigorating splash of water in the face. Ronnie Scott's, Frih St, London W1 (071-439 0747). Mon to Sat.

BERKSHIRE

**Hug a husky:** At the Husky Rally tomorrow. Wheeled sled races through the trails and around the lake. Wellington Country Park, Riseley, near Reading (0734 326444). Starts 10.30am. Adult £1.60, child 80p, under fives free.



Husky races in Berkshire

LINCOLNSHIRE

**Treasure Chest of Toys:** See the Teddy bears' picnic, Tarzan the Teddy, Eric and a selection of European dolls and teddies. Grantham Museum, St Peter's Hill, Grantham (0476 68783). Open Mon-Sat, 10am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-5pm. Until Jan 28. Adult 50p, child 25p, free on Wed.

LONDON

**Chopsticks and beyond:** David Howells presents humorous verse and virtuoso piano playing with Rimsky-Korsakov's *Paraphrases on Chopsticks*, Villa Lobos's *The Little Animals* and Paul Patterson's *Little Red Riding Hood*. From David's *Revolutionary Rhythms*. Purcell Room, South Bank Centre, SE1 (071-928 8800). Tomorrow, 3.15pm. £6. Age eight and over.

**Fantasia of film music:** Themes from 2001, ET, Star Wars and Indiana Jones performed by the Ernest Read Symphony Orchestra under Peter Stark. Barbican Hall, Silk Street, EC3 (071-638 8891). Tomorrow, 4pm. Adult from £6, child from £3.50.

MERSEYSIDE

**How do you see yourself:** As part of the Face exhibition which explores three centuries of self-portraiture, create your own self-portraits using materials supplied by the gallery. The Walker Art Gallery, William Brown Street, Liverpool (051-478 4199). Free. Open Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sunday 12-5pm. Last day tomorrow. £

TYNE AND WEAR

**Goodbye Minnie Party:** Send Minnie the Minx and the Bash Street Kids off in style this afternoon. Come dressed as your favourite cartoon character and win a prize. Sunderland Museum and Art Gallery, Borough Road, Sunderland (091-514 1235). Today 12-3pm, Sunday 2-5pm. Free. Last day tomorrow. £

WALES

**Snow, snow, quick quick snow:** A celebration looking at the facts, fantasies, myths and magic of snow. See cold cures used in past times and the collection of snow domes. Cheapest Museum, Bridge Street, Cheapest, Gwent (0291 625981). Open Mon-Sat 11am-1pm, 2-5pm, Sunday 2-5pm. Adult £1, child free. Until January 22. £

WEST MIDLANDS

**George's Marvellous Medicine:** Birmingham Stage Company presents the story of Roald Dahl's boy hero who concocts a special medicine for his grumpy granny. Adapted by Stuart Patterson. Birmingham Old Rep Theatre, Station Street, Birmingham (021-616 1519). Today, 2.30pm, 6.30pm. Mon-Fri, various times. Adult £9.50, child £6.50. Until January 26.

YORKSHIRE

**Buried treasure:** National Trust properties in Yorkshire are burying time capsules this week. They will contain up to 100 items from shoe polish to theatre tickets, teabags and, of course, a newspaper. Beningbrough Hall, Fri; Brimham Rocks, next Sat; East Riddlesden Hall, Tue; Malham Tarn Estate, Tue; Ormsley Hall, Wed; Treasures House, today; Yorkshire Coastal Centre, Thurs; Marsden Moor, Wed; Bridesstones, Fri; Fountains Abbey, next Sat. 0904 702021 for details.

HEATHER ALSTON

Ruth Gledhill pays a long overdue visit to a spiritual and geographical landmark

AT YOUR SERVICE



**WEARING** pretty gold earrings in the shape of the sun, a golden headband and gold chasuble, the Rev Ruth Scott de-claimed the importance of ritual. "Week by week, we meet here to celebrate the Eucharist," she said. "Although we use words which are in places theologically dubious to say the least, something important in terms of individuals and community is being expressed."

Mrs Scott, a "minister in secular employment", was taking our family communion service at Richmond Hill because the vicar, the Rev Bill Warren, was on holiday. At a time when the Church of England is struggling with continuing financial shortages Mrs Scott, a broadcaster and mature student, reflects a wider move towards unpaid service throughout the church. Non-stipendiary ministers, many with full-time careers in the week, are giving up their weekends to help out in the growing numbers of churches without full-time vicars of their own.

With St Mary Magdalene and St John the Divine, St Matthias, dedicated to the thirteenth apostle chosen by lot to fill the vacancy left by the suicide of Judas Iscariot, makes up the Richmond team ministry, where four clergy look after the three churches.

"The desire for ritual expression exists in all of us, but sometimes the church seems to fall short of

meeting people's needs," Mrs Scott continued. "We fail to provide adequate rituals to meet the needs of all experiences, like divorce." It was wrong that some in the church insisted that "you must join the club if you want your baby baptised". Mrs Scott said: "We ask people to leap through all sorts of hoops of belief before we meet their need. We do not always accept the Christ who let people come and go without ulterior motives, who did not have to keep an institutional show on the road, and who did not care about what was socially acceptable."

Appropriately for a church built according to the ideals of the High Church Cambridge Camden Society, our service was indeed full of the kind of reassuring ritual which imbues modern Anglican worship. It was difficult to hear the first reading, from Galatians, due to the crying babies. But by the time we turned to the aisle, from where Mrs Scott, three servers standing by, read the Gospel, all was silent. Far beyond the expense of the nave, silhouetted against the large Western door, we could see a handful of mothers and fathers cradling babies who gurgled happily.

We went on to shake hands in the "peace", sung gamely through hymns played at an unusual speed, and knelt for prayers led by a member of the congregation, Mary Gueritz: "Father, we knew



The Rev Ruth Scott takes the family service

you loved us when you sent your son to us to love and guide us. We know that you love us still and that you always will."

The congregation was full of local residents who have dedicated their lives to service. We were met on arrival by Bill Copen, 82, who was singing in the choir at the age of eight; the head server, Paul Velluet, an architect who works for English Heritage; wrote the leaflet setting out the church's history. But most impressive was the apparently ageless sacristan, Valerie Booth, thanks to whose meticulous care St Matthias boasts arguably the best-laudered linen in the diocese.

St Matthias, Church Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6PN (081-948 7217).

**TEAM VICAR DESIGNATE:** The Rev Bill Warren.

**ARCHITECTURE:** Delicate and elegant church built in 1858 by Sir George Gilbert Scott, who was influenced by the French Gothic cathedrals of Chartres and Bayeux in his design. The church is described by the late Sir Nikolaus Pevsner as the "grandest church in Richmond".\*\*\*\*

**SERMON:** Mrs Scott preached as if to do battle with lassitude, bold but not too bold in her liberalism.\*\*\*

**MUSIC:** Brisk organ playing by Pay Johnston to standard post-Christmas hymns Ancient & Modern.\*\*\*

**LITURGY:** Rite A from the 1980 Alternative Service Book.\*\*\*

**AFTER-SERVICE CARE:** Mrs Scott asked us: "What experiences have you had which you would like to be marked in some way? Maybe we can help you. It may be moving to a new house, retiring, a new relationship, celebrating a relationship that has lasted a long time, marking the end of a relationship.\*\*\*

**SPIRITUAL HIGH:** Thrilling to visit at last a church whose elegant 1948 spire, visible on a clear day from miles around, has been for me a spiritual landmark for nearly a decade.\*\*\*\*



# COVER STORY

3

Continued from page 1

that move outside urban centres, businesses are loath to relocate because, says Dr Frost, "they are unwilling to lose out on the pools of labour present in urban centres". And yet those very pools are created in part by wage slaves who live outside urban centres.

Some fortunate long-distance commuters can sleep on a virtually empty train on the way into London. This, however, is never possible for Jonathan Ewbank. Mr Ewbank is 6ft 3in tall, so he finds seating a problem. "A lot of the seats are virtually impossible to sit on with any degree of comfort. Everyone groans when I sit down."

Mr Ewbank, 32, commutes the 55 miles from Colchester to London where he works as a stockbroker. He lives in a four-bedroom, semi-detached Victorian townhouse, which is worth about £150,000, a property that would cost at least twice as much in London. His wife, Alison, works locally as a vet, and he has two children, aged four and two. Commuting, he says, "facilitates the quality of life that we want. That is, living out of London, somewhere near the countryside in a nice, old-fashioned English town." Like Mr Mavroleon, Mr Ewbank regards commuting as very much a necessary evil. "Because I don't want to live in London, I want to live in Colchester. People laugh at Essex, but this end of Essex is very nice."

Mr Ewbank's second-class season ticket costs him £2,348 a year, although he is toying with the notion of travelling first class soon, to guarantee him some degree of comfort. His journey takes him an hour and a quarter, "which isn't too bad", he says. He gets up at around 6.20 — "the basic abstractions you can get down to 20 minutes" — and then leaves at 6.45. He has to drive to Colchester station, where the car-parking costs him £330 a year. Why not take the bus? "I couldn't face a bus at that time of the morning, especially if it was raining. Besides, the difference in price would only be around a hundred pounds a year, so it wouldn't really be worth it."

Mr Ewbank does not find commuting too much of a chore. In the morning, but he says that he hates it in the evening when he is tired. Once a week, on average, he is delayed for half an hour, and every six weeks, he says, British Rail comes up with a "real hum-dinger", which delays him for three to four hours. Like Mr Mavroleon, Mr Ewbank works in London because jobs in the capital are, almost always, better paid. This, he says, "makes the hassle just about bearable". Have the long hours of commuting affected his marriage? "No, I don't think they have," he replies. "We both realise that it's something that I have to do. However, other things have been sacrificed: I used to play a lot of cricket and golf at the weekends, but it doesn't seem fair to do that now."

Commuting can be tough on families and partners as well as on the commuters themselves, as Mr Barnes, of the London Regional Passengers' Committee, explains: "If you, as a family have decided, either out of necessity or from a positive decision, that the breadwinner has to commute, then there are certain consequences to be faced. Whether they are good for family life depends on each case. But, if you have taken that decision on the basis that you will get home at certain times, there is a problem. Unreliability of some services puts a strain on family life, and that is out of the commuter's control."

Mr Barnes, who commutes by rail the 50 miles from his home near Audley End, in Essex, to Liverpool Street station, backs this up with personal experience: "If I'm late back because of the trains then I know that I'm unpopular with my wife for a bit."

Mark Neller is another of those who commute to earn the higher pay offered by City firms. Every day he travels the 20 miles from Billericay in



Members of the commuters' club: Jonathan Ewbank (top) hates the evening journey home when he is tired

Ilias Mavroleon (above) says that he and others commute to give their families a better lifestyle

Mark Neller (left) says higher pay compensates for the travelling

Essex to Liverpool Street Station, which is a short walk to Lehman Brothers in the City where he works as an "administration professional" — a part-qualified accountant. Although he is only 27, Mr Neller has 11 years of commuting under his belt — he left school and got straight on the Tube. But like Mr Ewbank, doesn't he find the process irksome? "I don't really, because I don't have to get the Tube. That's where the real hassle is."

Billericay is a dormitory town. Trains to Liverpool Street run every ten minutes during the rush hours, and the fastest take just 25 minutes. Mr Neller estimates that his total journey time is well under an hour.

He finds commuting boring: "I switch off, and just manage to get through it," he says. "If you asked the same question in ten or 20 years time, I'd probably say, 'God, I'm really looking forward to retirement'." Mr Neller has recently become engaged. He and his fiancée, Nina, bought a four-bedroom house in

Billericay for £66,000, 18 months ago. The same amount would buy, for example, only a one-bedroom flat in Battersea, south London. Mr Neller's season ticket costs £1,756 a year, but his company subsidises it to the tune of 25 per cent, which means that his monthly outgoing is just £110 — a quarter of what Mr Mavroleon forges out.

Mr Neller and his fiancée are young; why don't they prefer the razzmatazz of London to country life? "My fiancée doesn't work in London — she's a hairdresser. Her client base is in Billericay and the surrounding areas. Besides, it can take as long to commute within London as it can to it."

Mr Neller used to go out often in London, but does so less since his engagement. Nevertheless, does his commuting affect their relationship? "It's not really a problem," he says. "It's been something I've been doing ever since I've known Nina. Sometimes, if I miss a train or if it's late then there's a problem." In fact, this causes friction at home "especially when I've had to fork out £50 to get a cab home."

Mr Neller and his fiancée are looking forward to a family — the size of their house is more practical on those grounds alone. Would he move further out, as far away as Mr Ewbank, for example? "If the property came up," he says, "then yes, I would, in preference to moving towards London. If I could afford the place I'm looking for, then I would probably have a nice little flat in London as well."

Vicor Logan keeps two properties: a bungalow in Hollywood, Co Down, which is worth £230,000, and a house in Kingston, Surrey. Mr Logan is 55 and is the deputy-chief executive of a firm of international insurance bro-

kers. He is also the chairman of its Northern Ireland operation, so two jobs means two homes. But home with a capital 'H' is in Northern Ireland — he was born and bred in the Province. His three daughters are grown up, but he says that "they would be very sad if we gave up on our Northern Ireland home. Despite all working in England, they regard themselves as Ulster folk. I have no intention of leaving Northern Ireland. Absolutely not."

So, every Monday, Mr Logan and his wife Sheila wake at 5.15 to catch the British Midland 7 o'clock flight from Belfast International to Heathrow. He is behind his desk in Kingston by 9.30. They return to Northern Ireland on either a Thursday or Friday night. They buy their tickets in blocks of five, which works out at about £145 return. He commutes for roughly 40 weeks a year so the total cost is about £6,000. The office is within walking distance of the house in Kingston.

In many ways, Mr Logan treats the plane like a London commuter would treat the train. "I generally do some reading work and yes, the plane is almost like a club."

Unlike the train, Mr Logan says that the plane is a far more relaxed affair — he tucks into a cooked breakfast on board. "My friends constantly ask me if I'm exhausted," he says, "but I tell them it's a big weekly commute, not a big daily commute."

Mr Logan is one of the lucky few; to him commuting is almost a pleasure. But think of Ilias Mavroleon the next time he misses his train home. "When that happens, as you arrive ten seconds late and see it pulling out of the station, your adrenaline goes through the roof, your blood pressure rises, and you think, 'What the hell am I going to do for the next half-an-hour?' It happens lots of times. Commuting is not about getting from A to B. It's about missing that bloody train, and waiting for the next one. That's what it's about."

## To commute, or not to, that is the question



I KNEW our days in London were numbered the night my husband spent 20 minutes searching for a parking space within walking distance of our home. Not that we had been unhappy in London, but after four years the numerous irritants of living in the capital were starting to take their toll.

When we discussed the matter a few days later my husband, Chris, was quite clear about what he wanted: "fresh air, a garden, some peace and quiet — and a garage." The roads of Belsize Park, where we lived in northwest London, were permanently lined with parked cars. Not without reason has it been renamed Belsize Car Park by people living there.

The area has many advantages. It is a leafy, cosmopolitan enclave close to Hampstead Heath and just 20 minutes by Tube from central London. But, as with much of the capital, it is densely populated.

Traffic is relentless, parking is impossible. The air always smells of fumes. Plants that had thrived when my husband lived in Somerset began to die in our London flat. Our parents' homes outside London became refuges for sad-looking plants in need of rest and recuperation. If the atmosphere was having such a severe effect on our plants, we began to wonder whether it would also be detrimental to our health in the long term.

The density of the population, with vehicles and people constantly on the move, also meant that the area was permanently noisy, even into the early hours. We began to yearn for silence.

The decision to move out was clinched when I became pregnant — the baby is due in May. We knew that more space would be essential, as would a garden.

We chose to move to St Albans, 25 miles north of London, because of its excel-

lent public transport systems and because it is relatively rural. Trains into London run at least every ten minutes, with a journey time of 20-30 minutes. My journey, door to door, takes about 1 hr 15 mins, compared with 45 minutes for the seven-mile drive from Belsize Park. For the price of a two-bedroom flat in Belsize Park, we can buy a three or four-bedroom detached house in St Albans, with garage and garden.

So we sold our London flat just before Christmas and we are now renting in St Albans to see whether life really is greener beyond the M25.

CATHERINE MURPHY  
Chief sub-editor of Weekend



I HAVE spent the best part of a decade as one of Britain's bruised and bloodied super-commuters: one of the chumps who believed he could have The Good Life near Rugby surrounded by trees and traffic-free streets and still work in London.

Like thousands of others in the 1980s, I actually believed in the 20th-century dream of zipping between a home in the sticks and an office in the City.

Well, that's it. I have had enough. The house is up for sale and I am going to move as close to my office door as I can reasonably manage without setting up a camp bed in the cleaner's broom closet.

My wife and three children live in a big house in semi-rural Rugby in Warwickshire — a four-bedroom, double-garaged, three-bathroomed, Yamachu so far out of reach of the average London family it may as well be Buckingham Palace.

We paid £80,000 for it. Rugby was an hour — 82 miles — from London by InterCity, and the season ticket of £1,776-a-year — or about £40-a-week — was fair exchange for a cheaper mort-

gage, easy access to good schools for my children and clean air.

The real price, I discovered too late, was the daily journey to London, and the scope for things to go wrong.

Mornings are an ordeal of packed trains and uncertain timing. I have missed planes, appointments — and almost the chance of my job at *The Times* when a "failed engine" made me an hour late for my interview.

Evenings are potentially more hazardous: one inadvertent drop of the eyelids and I am on my way to Birmingham International, a windswept concrete platform 40 miles from my warm, comfy bed.

Ten years and what seems like dozens of messed-up arrangements later, try telling your wife that the train is late or missing... again.

Even when everything runs on time, an ordinary eight-hour working day becomes a 12-hour epic because of the travelling time at each end.

Going by car is the alternative of the damned with miles of M1 blocked presumably by similarly disenchanted commuters who have given up on the uncertainty of rail.

And, if my record longest rail journey from Rugby to London is just over five hours, then the car wins the title of Great Hopeless Journeys with a magnificent six hours clocked up in 1990 when a lorry blocked the M1.

At least the car is a cheaper option thanks to the barmy policies of British Rail and a Government which for some reason has made it more expensive to go to work than to go shopping.

While off-peak fares have remained fairly stable on the Rugby line, commuter season tickets have jumped almost 250 per cent. From this month, the new annual season is £4,320 — or £108 a week.

But it won't be my problem. Me, I'm going to walk to work.

KEVIN EASON  
Motoring Correspondent



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## ARTS

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## Lottery cash? It should be us, darling

If you were on an intergalactic business trip last Wednesday evening, perhaps engaged in the Her Majesty's Pleasure on the Isle of Wight — you might have missed the big news. It was L-Day. L for Lottery, L for Lolly, L for Loot, and most of all, L for Livvies — of which there were loads on parade outside the Arts Council.

Yes, it was "Can We Have The Lottery Money Now?" Morning. Foremost in the dole queue was the ballerina, Miss Doreen Russell. She's 25, she's luscious, she's leggy, she's got the OBE, and her jets are universally declared to be simply divine, darling... yet still she says she needs £50 million of the punters' hard-gambling dosh. Not for herself, you understand, but for the impoverished Royal Opera House. An irresistible supplication, is it not?

Jeremy Isaacs was there too, playing a slightly porky Nureyev to Russell's Fonteyn. The Covent Garden boss beamed at his own generosity as he assured the Great British that they were

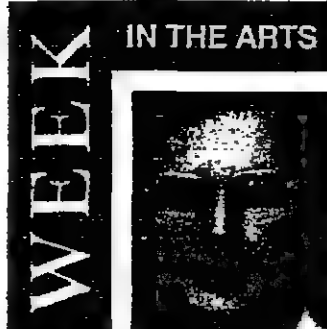
getting a bargain, because £50 million was less than a third of the total cost of the Royal Opera House development. And since none of the television reporters present had the wit to ask him a naive question — such as "why does it cost £150 million to revamp Covent Garden, when Glyndebourne built an entirely new opera house for £35 million?" — the ebullient Scot was able to put on a very chirpy show.

Then came a contingent of no fewer than 100 people pressing the claim of Sadler's Wells Theatre. They want a mere £20 million, by the way. "It's a people's lottery and we are a people's theatre," said Sadler's Wells chief executive, Ian Albery, thus dispelling fears that coachloads of hamsters were being entertained nightly in Islington.

The star turn, however, was Peter Gummer, the man who will

advise the Arts Council on which applications to accept. The brother of a much-loved Cabinet minister, Gummer appeared in a Garrick Club tie and assured us that there would be a fair division of spoils between what he called "the metropolis" and the regions. Unsporting cynics who regard the Lottery as an Establishment carve-up were surely silenced by this noble spectacle.

It is discord at the 172-year-old Royal Academy of Music. Its principal, the burly American cellist Lynn Harrell, has departed suddenly after just 16 months. His predecessor, Sir David Lumsden, has returned part-time until a replacement is found. And even the official comment on Harrell's resignation hints at a clash of interests. The cellist was fulfilling



RICHARD MORRISON

solo engagements across the globe while trying to run Britain's oldest conservatoire.

Why was he offered the job in the first place? Well, there was some method in the madness. For years, our music colleges were

criticised for lax standards and for being out of touch with musical realities. When Anne Sophie Mutter gave a violin masterclass at the academy in the mid-1980s, her acerbic comments about the students' woeful techniques sent shock-waves through British musical life.

To its credit, the academy took swift action, recruiting famous virtuosi (Mutter included) as visiting professors. Harrell's appointment as principal was the logical culmination of this process.

It came unstuck for two reasons. First, celebrated performers are, by definition, greatly in demand. Dropping in for the odd masterclass is one thing; running the shop quite another. Second, London's music profession is a ruthlessly competitive hierarchy. The academy's professors are at the top, and there may have been

resentment when a foreign cellist was appointed over them.

Of course, no great musical institution would be complete without a daily fix of backstabbing, character assassination and Machiavellian plotting. "Never forget," a London Symphony Orchestra newsmen was once advised, "that only half your energy goes into playing the notes. The rest goes into ensuring that when you turn up tomorrow there is nobody else sitting on your chair."

From the Department of Heartwarming Incongruities comes the news that the television series *The Bill* is to sponsor a young playwright to the tune of £5,000. The chosen dramatist will be attached to a repertory theatre and write a play for it. Apparently it is not a condition

of the award that each line of dialogue is prefaced with the immortal words "leave it out, Sarge". In fact, the play doesn't have to be about the police at all. The bursary is, it seems, just *The Bill*'s way of acknowledging that television plucks a lot of talent out of the "serious arts", and ought to put something back.

This commendable idea should be made mandatory throughout British television. *Blind Date*, for instance, might aptly sponsor a production of the ballet *Mayerling*, in which two dripping lovers commit suicide, much to everybody's relief. And Jeremy Beadle's *You've Been Framed* would finance a nationwide knitting competition — the idea being that if everybody is knitting, they can't also be filming grandma pretending to trip over the gerbil.

Readers will surely be able to invent their own incongruous liaisons. A mini-condition copy of *The History of the Dagenham Girl Pipers* to the best suggestion I receive. Second prize: two copies.

## An arresting success

As *An Inspector Calls* closes, Benedict Nightingale reflects on how it made its director's reputation

When Richard Eyre asked Stephen Daldry to make his debut at the National, the answer he got left him feeling he was about to employ the sort of maniac who gets pleasure out of hitting himself over the head. Could anything but self-destructiveness explain why a rising young director would want to stage that galling drawing-room melodrama, that tattered repertory reach-me-down, J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*?

But Daldry is articulate and personable enough to have persuaded Binkie Beaumont to present Goethe's  *Faust* on ice in the Palladium. The National's director stifled his misgivings, with results that have defied surgery and confounded pessimism. When *An Inspector Calls* ends its London run on January 21, it will have played 693 performances, first on the South Bank, then at the Aldwych. By then more than 350,000 people will have seen it, forking out £4.35 million at the West End box-office alone.

Moreover, the play is still running on Broadway more than eight months after Daldry restaged it in that graveyard for serious work. Here, there, he and his designer, Ian McNeil, have won 19 of the more important awards, a record for any National production. Have they been surreptitiously sacrificing babies to Dionysus, god of drama, or are there simpler explanations for what is, by any criterion, an astounding success? Come to that, what are the lessons and legacies of the *Inspector* phenomenon?

The piece itself is a preachy thriller, whose narrative shape rapidly becomes as obvious as its theme. One after another, of the Edwardian brats, cads, Scrooges and snobs that make up the Birling family turn out to have some responsibility for the suicide of a sweet and generous working-class girl. The play's conclusions reflect the mood of 1945, when it first appeared: with selfishness and class arrogance, in with community and brotherhood. Socialism, they say, is dead.

Even the undecipherable variety exposed by that no-nonsense Yorkshireman, J.B. Priestley, has taken a terminal battering. But the play's outrage transcends any political creed or party agenda. It makes a direct, frank, even naive appeal to a place that many Britons feel went missing in the 1980s: the human heart. Maybe a sort of moral nostalgia, a hankering for lost decencies, explains its success.

That might of course still be the case if Daldry had left the play in its usual setting. What made his production original was that he took it out of the comfy living-room specified in the published text, relocating it in an expressionist bomb-scape, punctuated with oases of privilege, that simultaneously evoked the 1930s, the 1940s and the 1990s. But the effect was to intensify not dilute the play's built-in ire. An attack on Edwardian-style complacency somehow became a denunciation of the sins of the century.

But hold on a moment. That doesn't sound the kind of entertainment that runs and



Kenneth Cranham (front) and Barbara Leigh-Hunt (right) in *An Inspector Calls*, Priestley's warhorse revived

runs, does it? We are talking of mass audiences here, not the odd busload of dillard Scargillites from Priestley's old backyard. Maybe it was the production's visual bravura, culminating in a fall of the House of Birling to rival that of Usher, which made the difference. Combine the tension of Agatha Christie with

the special effects of *Miss Saigon*; add a righteous passion seldom found on the stage nowadays; and perhaps you have a dish fit for old or young, Tory or Labour, native or tourist.

The production's success raises other questions, too. We all know that a play may shift and shimmy in performance,

especially if the director takes liberties with it; but that hardly sums up what happened here. Daldry changed not a word of the text, and distorted Priestley's aims and intentions not a jot, yet he gave *Inspector* a style that made it far bolder, larger and more significant than it objectively is. Can a director's imagin-

ation transform the minor into the major? Can a production of a play actually be better than the play itself? That is the impossibility Daldry ended by proving possible.

Indeed, this has become his trademark feat. For he went on to do much the same with Sophie Treadwell's *Machinal* and Arnold Wesker's *Kitchen*.

Who would have thought such frail pieces could prove so eloquent? And that brings me to another, less airy question raised by the triumph of *Inspector*. What has it done for Daldry himself?

A tiny minority of theatregoers knew his productions at the Gate, where he made a speciality of cramming neglected plays with large casts onto a postage-stamp stage. First Priestley, then Treadwell gave him the chance to demonstrate that he could handle spaces the size of 20 post offices. *Inspector* put him centrally on the theatrical map, yet managed also to raise doubts that have yet to be dispelled by his work at the Royal Court, whose artistic director he became in 1993.

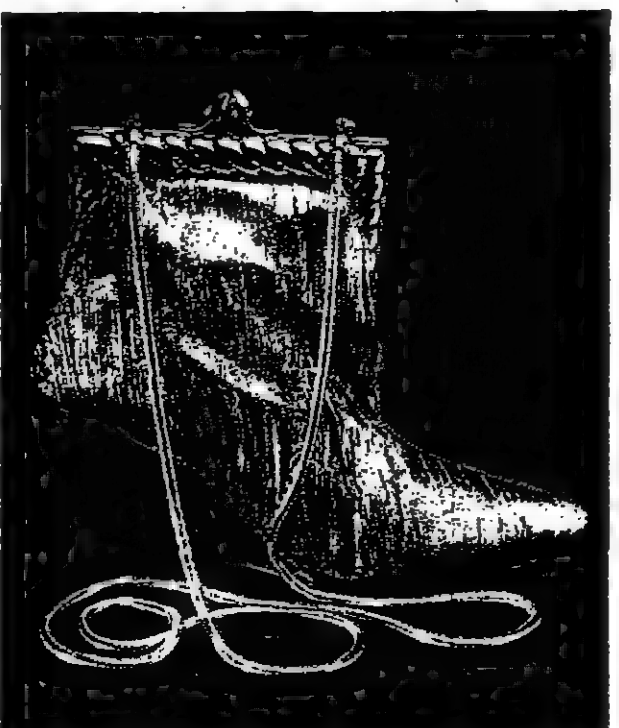
Can he handle the great corpses — Chekhov, Ibsen, Shakespeare — as effectively as the obscure ones? And can he do as much for the quick as for the dead? It probably says something about English envy and mean-spiritedness that Daldry's very successes are bringing these questions into the open; but he still needs to address the first of them and come up with better answers to the second than an indecisive production of Meredith Oakes's awkward comedy of manners, *The Editing Process*. If he does that, there should be no stopping him. Indeed, Daldry's success with *Priestley* may be remembered as the first big step in his ascent to the office soon to be relinquished by Richard Eyre. The final paradox may come when the director of *An Inspector Calls* takes over as National supremo from the director who did not really want to give it house-room.

GALLERIES: Samuele Mazza invites browsers into the shoe shop from Hell

## Boots not made for walking

Everyone has a shoe collection of one kind or another: most of us have a couple of pairs for walking about in and a couple which let in water but which we cannot bear to throw away. Samuele Mazza has more than 200, most of them created at his invitation by artists such as Javachef Christo and Aldo Mondino and fashion designers, including Yves Saint Laurent, Vivienne Westwood and Jean-Paul Gaultier. They are unique, grotesque, unpredictable, worth about £1.5 million, and you cannot put your feet in them.

But you can see them, courtesy of the Accademia Italiana, at the Smith's Galleries in Covent Garden. It was the Accademia that first brought us the Milanese art director's celebration of the bra, *Brachas*, and this second stage in what he calls "the process of mythologising objects" is a still greater success. When you walk into the gallery, there is a feeling that you have arrived in the shoe shop from Hell. The main room is brightly lit and the floor is empty: small shelves display the bizarre responses to Mazza's commission, at once shoes and not shoes, in a way that invites you to ask an attendant if he has the blue one in a size nine. He does not. There are shoes covered



Maurizio Dori's "Ambivalence", in leather, fabric and metals

with maps, or encrusted with earth, which hint at wandering Jews, globe-trotters, refugees. There are shoes, ornamented and absurd, which sing "footloose and fancy free", and shoes made of feathers that say "wings on my feet". Many more have chosen

to tell again the Cinderella story through a reinterpretation of the glass slipper.

Art has always had areas of interest for the foot-fetishist. Andy Warhol began life as a shoe designer and is duly commemorated in many of the installations. Then there was

Magritte's *Le Modèle Rouge*, which depicted the monstrous metamorphosis of shoe into foot — a theme taken up by many of the exhibitors, who also have reptile-skin shoes turning into reptiles, a boot that opens out into a gaping mouth, and a flip-flop whose sole is of the Dover variety. The iconography of the Madonna also looms large in this predominantly Italian exhibition: serpents are crushed by feet, even as they turn into snakeskin pumps.

After fifty-odd shoes you feel fluent in the vocabulary of the exhibition and the fascination is in watching how each artist approaches his commission. Some opt for cartoon-like semantic jokes — a brogue incorporated into a Greco-Roman column is entitled "Classic Shoe" — others for mocking visual irony, such as the pink diving flipper encrusted with sequins and described as "Mermaid".

The accompanying catalogue spouts post-structuralist theories ad absurdum ("shoes as shamanistic tools of the Wanderer") but should not detract from the fun to be had in window-shopping on the edge of madness.

GILES COREN

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RECORDINGS: Murray Perahia with the definitive Chopin Ballades; the Kirov stands still with *Sadko*; Charles Brown swings back

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

CHOPIN

Four Ballades, etc  
Murray Perahia  
Sony SK 64 399\*\*\*

IF I had to choose just one recording of the Chopin Ballades by a living pianist, this would be it. Murray Perahia is not an over-prolific recording artist: he knows the time and place for each project, and within each piece he plays in this recital there is a reason for every move he makes. Not a note is taken for granted.

Knowing that the most intensely pictorially imagined interpretation can often yield the most perfect abstract pianistic beauty, Perahia is not afraid (so his notes tell us) to go back to Chopin's own source of inspiration: the Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz. Interestingly, though, he claims that an acquaintance with the musical fabric of the Ballades renders the poems more relevant and evocative, rather than the other way round.

Even before you read the bookshelves, though, there is so much to enjoy here. The G minor Ballade becomes a dramatic scene of contrasting inner and outer lives, with one idea 'building' from another with a gentleness which belies the power of the thought and the strength of the fingers behind it. Perahia reclaims the key of A minor for the second Ballade, so that the F major opening takes on a hovering sense of suspended animation, until the beating heart of A minor is reached.

But there is more here than Ballades. Perahia's two Grandes Valses live in air, the left hand levitating on each springing chord, the right barely touching each evenly resonating key. For three Mazurkas, Perahia re-examines every tiny rhythmic particle to intensify the bubbling chemistry of their relationships; and his E major Etude discovers its long, lovely song as if for the first time.

SCHUBERT

Sonata D958/Moments  
Musicalium  
Jeremy Menuhin  
Dinner DCD 004

THE first of the three Sonatas of Schubert's last year is, for Jeremy Menuhin, a journey into the heart of darkness. In comparison with Alfred Brendel's sharply defined drama, or Radu Lupu's darker dream (both pianists couple this work with the *Moments Musicalium*), Menuhin plays with an almost unmitigated somnolence and gravity, as if the entire Sonata has been imagined outwards from the slow movement's swansong, so beautifully sung here, and marked with horror-filled silences.

Every harmonic sidestep, every momentary change of pace in the first movement is tasted and felt to the full. And the clarity of Menuhin's articulation gives the finale — in his words 'a cavalcade through the underworld' — a hundred feeling faces. As its obsessive triplet rhythm does one mask after another. The *Moments Musicalium* are dark, too. With something occasionally approaching the deliberation and introspection of a Claudio Arrau (for whom each one is more a lifetime than a moment), Menuhin offers a deeply pondered No 2, an 'Air russe' which is, in its own way, a shadowy *dance macabre*, and a final A flat major Allegretto of infinite space and infinite sadness.

John Higgins

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV

Sadko  
Tarusova Tsildipova/  
Galustin/Kirov Opera  
Orchestra/Gergiev  
Philips 442 139-2 (3 CDs)\*\*\*

VALERY Gergiev emerged as one of the musical heroes of 1994. He fought against the insolvency which threatened the Kirov Opera and re-established the company on the international scene. Simultaneously, almost single-handedly, he championed the anniversary of Rimsky-Korsakov's birth. Gergiev's efforts have been so impressive that there is now almost a danger of overrating some of Rimsky's operas.

*Sadko* is certainly an exotic work. Written between 1894 and 1896, it is a mixture of the type of Russian fable and legend which Diaghilev was soon to introduce to the West. It moves all over the place, from the city of Novgorod to the banks of Lake Ilmen and down to the bottom of the ocean. But even on record it still seems extraordinarily static. The characters, whether wandering minstrels or rulers of the deep, come on and sing



Murray Perahia has gone back to Chopin's original inspiration, the Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz, for his interpretation of the Ballades — 'not a note is taken for granted'

their songs and then push off. It has correctly been described as a 'ballad opera': a great deal should be happening but not a great deal does.

Sadko himself is a kind of Russian Siegfried, ready for any adventure, be it on land or sea. With the help of an Uddine-like Princess Volkova, he wins golden fish from Lake Ilmen to make the townfolk rich. And when the Russian merchant fleet is becalmed, he dives into the ocean depths to placate the local Neptune. The Kirov



Gergiev: hero of 1994

brothers would have had a great time making the movie, had they thought of it. Vladimir Galustin sings the title role with the unwavering, robust tenor that is one of the hallmarks of the Kirov style. He is never short of a ringing note but cannot conceal the fact that Sadko does not change much despite all his adventures. Valentina Tsildipova and Marianna Tarusova are well contrasted as, respectively, the Princess who is constantly luring Sadko into the waters and the young wife who is surprisingly content to stay at home. Both voices carry a certain amount of vibrato.

The most attractive performances come from Sergei Alexashkin, a Sea King whose bass really does come from the ocean bed, and Larissa Diadkova's minuet. Gergiev's favourite tenors, is surprisingly disappointing in the 'Indian Merchant's Song', the most famous aria in the score. The recording is drawn live from the Kirov: plenty of lusty if overlong choruses and quite a lot of noisy stage movement. The sound of the orchestra is less clear than it might be, especially with Gergiev at the helm. So the two-star rating is mainly for curiosity value.

Barry Millington

SCHUMANN

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Hanover Band/Goodman  
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SCHUMANN Symphonies Nos 2 & 4  
Polish National Radio  
Symphony Orchestra/Wit  
Nawas 8550923\*\*\*

Symphonies that brought Nikolaus Harnoncourt's acute sense of period to bear (though his Chamber Orchestra of Europe, brass and timpani aside, do not play period instruments) on familiar repertoire. Now from RCA comes the complete set of four Schumann symphonies, recorded on period instruments for the first time, by the Hanover Band under Roy Goodman. (Roger Norrington's fine 1991 recording was of the Third and Fourth only.)

Goodman's readings are no less revelatory than Harnoncourt's. Some of the interpretative decisions the two men have made are indeed similar: both favour crisp Classical textures and fleet tempos; both readings are sharply etched in terms of timbre and articulation; both adopt the original (1841) version of the Fourth Symphony, without the later woodwind doublings. The difference between them is seen most clearly in the Fourth Symphony, where Harnoncourt is positively chamberlike in his approach to texture and ensemble, while Goodman's account is less intimate, harder driven. Not that he goes for grand statements: indeed, those familiar with the classic accounts of these works by Karajan, Sawallisch, Kubelik and others may find a lack of expansiveness.

The compensations are considerable, however. Above all, there is the sheer vigour and muscularity, the lack of excess weight and portentousness. But equally arresting is the consistent beauty of timbre: the glittering Mendelssohnian lightness of the Scherzo of the Second and the exquisite



Goodman: sheer vigour

woodwind and brass colour in the middle movements of the Third make one wonder how such orchestration could ever have been called into question. Antoni Wit's budget-price recording of the Second and Fourth Symphonies for Naxos is even more enamoured than most, his Scherzo for the Second sounds unbearably leaden after Goodman, and his Romance in the Fourth impossibly slow by any standards. But there is a lot to admire in these readings: the greater weight and Brahmsian warmth are more appropriate in the Adagio of the Second, and these are both, for the most part, carefully thought out and executed performances.

Stephen Pettitt

BACH

Mass in B minor  
Ziesak/Alexander/Van Nes/  
Lewis/Wilson-Johnson/  
Bavarian Radio Symphony  
Orchestra and Chorus/  
Giulini  
Sony Classical SKZ 66354  
(2 CDs)\*\*\*

PARED-down performances of Bach on period or period-style instruments were once revolutionary and refreshing. Now, however, they are vanguard, to the point where one 'authentic' B minor Mass often sounds very much like any other. Yet even baroque music demands subjectivity and personality from its performers, something that the Norringtons and Gardiners of this world recognise. You could argue until kingdom come against the 19th-century style of Giulini's Bach: what you cannot dispute is his individuality, his overwhelming spiritual conviction, and, in the end, his power.

The question is whether or not this large-scale, grand and leisurely performance of Bach's Mass in B minor represents Giulini more than Bach. I do not think so. Giulini has never been the most self-serving of conductors. Here he serves respect — even love — for every note. Even if it is not as 'right' as we would like to believe all of those historically aware performances are, this is a performance both in respect and love in return. That is because it shows us the music's spiritual essence.

Sonorously rich playing from the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, sturdy singing from the Bavarian Radio Chorus and excellent contributions from the soloists.

Clive Davis

CHARLES BROWN

These Blues  
Verve 52022-2\*\*\*

THE comeback continues. A decade ago it seemed that Charles Brown's story would be one of yet another R&B master left to end his days in obscurity.

How different it all looks now. Thanks to the encouragement of Bonnie Raitt, among others, the singer-pianist has been reborn. What makes the revival of interest in his music all the more welcome is that he is performing as well, if not better, than at any point in his 50-odd-year career. While some blues veterans, understandably, play up the macho posturing as their powers decline, Brown's phrasing — vaguely redolent of Nat King Cole but with a more abrasive edge — grows ever more suave and confident. He has always been something of an anomaly, a musician who plays supper club blues without compromising his art. While his voice knows despair — 'Drifting Blues' will always be his signature

tune — the romantic sheen of his piano accompaniment lends his work a sparkling, uptown quality. He would never, you can be sure, allow an uncouth word to slip from his lips. After the mild anticlimax of last year's 'with strings' outing for the Rounder label, *These Blues* returns to the no-frills, small group setting which suits him best, surrounded by the musicians who made such an impression on his last visit to Britain. The key players are the guitarist Danny Caron, who gives the

ballads a rootsy backbone, and the robust tenor saxophonist Clifford Solomon who, when not blowing the roof off, can take a delectable jazz chorus.

Brown comes very close to matching the achievement of 1992's *Someone To Love*, that near-perfect set enhanced by a guest appearance by Raitt. The mood this time is a shade more languorous and introspective, drawing the listener into the ambience of an after-hours show. He invariably smuggles a religious number

into the proceedings. His intensely personal rendering of 'Amazing Grace' would be a match for any preacher's.

ANITA CARMICHAEL

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EASY on the ear: jazz-funk and pop from a saxophonist-singer who has done the rounds of the London clubs and who once, apparently, studied with Stan Getz. Strong backing by her musicians compensates for the functional lyrics.

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

MORE RENDEZVOUS APPEARS ON PAGE 34 SECTION 2

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# Italian zest for oranges



Ivo Matteuzzi, the head gardener from the Boboli gardens in Florence, visited Hanbury during the first

Oranges are evergreen trees, and if the temperature stays above 10C they will

**Britain's gardeners have had problems growing orange trees ever since they were first imported in the 18th century**

In Italy, summer tempera-

fresh air as possible, and ventilation is vital. In winter

which are hardier than or-

● **Hanbury Hall, Droitwich, Hereford & Worcester**, is a William and Mary-style brick house built in 1701, which is famous for its Thornhill ceilings and staircase. It reopens April 1. Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, 2pm-6pm.

## STEPHEN ANDERTON

replies to readers' letters

cover my garden wall. He recommended the Russian "mile-a-minute" vine, *Polygonum* (now *Fallopia*) *baldschuanicum*. It now smothers my shrubs and has taken root in three neighbouring gardens. Apart from my shears, how do I regain independence? — Jack Gilbert, London E8.

You will not have early flowers, but that is the price of window-sill sowing. The greatest losses in window-sill plants are from starting too early, when temperatures are too variable and light levels insufficient for many species. Better a late-flowering plant than some gangling misery that never makes good.

● Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, Pennington St. London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

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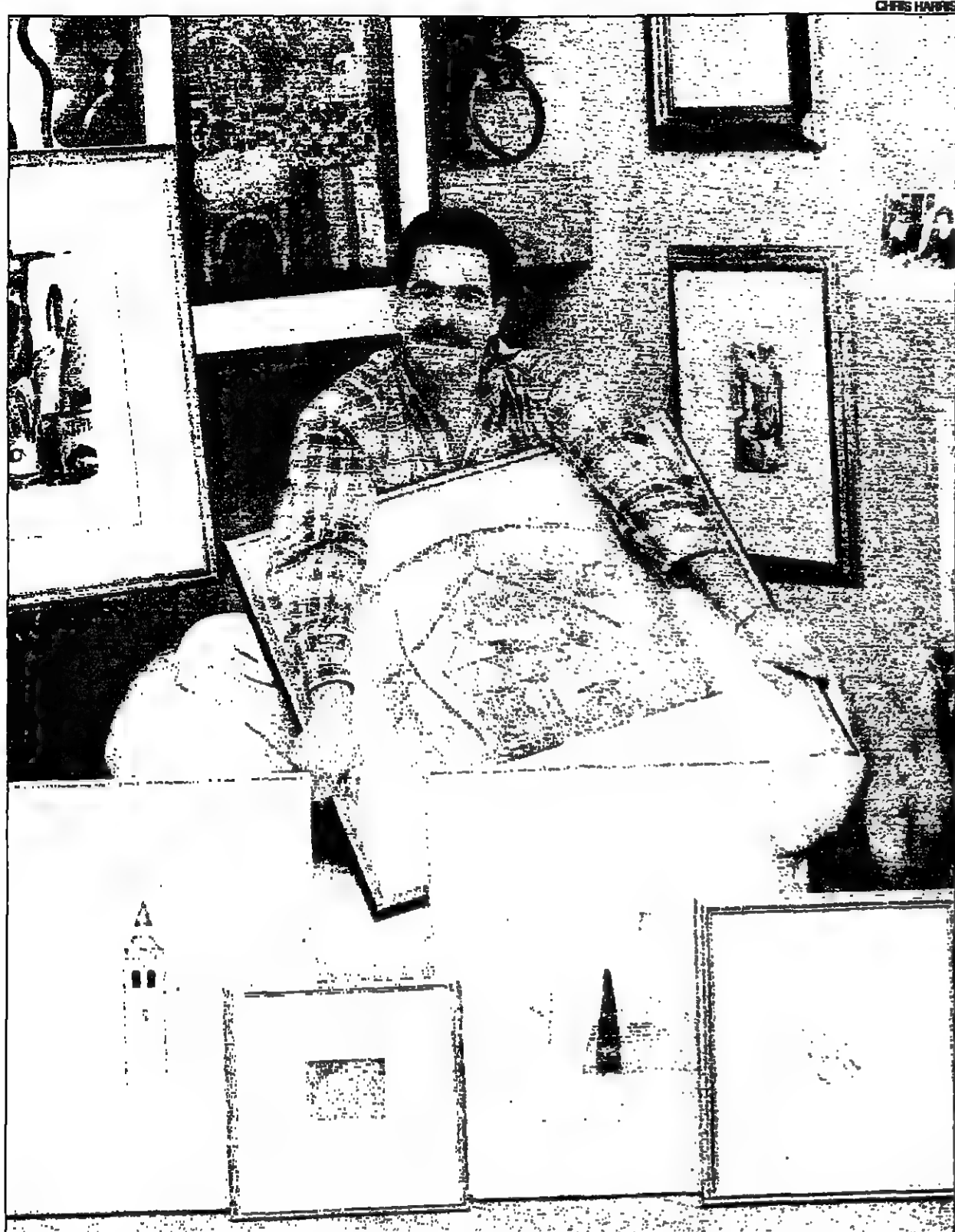
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Art lovers are assembling in London this weekend for the tenth Original Print Fair, where some works will sell for



**David Lazarus has built up a substantial collection of original prints, but he rarely pays more than £2,000 a print**

# Come up and see



Mr Lazarus's Pablo Picasso print, *En Arrive*, (left), signed by Picasso's sister, Marina. Matisse lithograph, *Poesies Antillaises*



The tenth London Original Print Fair at the Royal Academy today and tomorrow has a strong contemporary flavour, quite in keeping with the ever-growing enthusiasm among collectors for works by the acknowledged greats of the mid to late-20th century. In the course the great masters of the art of printmaking will be well represented – Dürer, Rembrandt, Piranesi, Tiepolo, Goya – but the real excitement this year is reserved for new, unseen work by David Hockney and American pop artist Roy Lichtenstein. The Hockneys (signed, limited edition of between 60 and 68) range from around £2,300 to £10,000 and the Lichtensteins from about £4,300 to £13,300.

New York dealer Susan Sheehan is offering a rare 1964 Jasper Johns print called *Ale Cans* for an eye-opening £63,000. Many other prints for sale at this gathering of 24 of the world's leading dealers from America, Europe and Britain cost very much less, (£200 to £800) because collecting original prints — even

those by the key names of 20th-century art — can be surprisingly inexpensive, as London dealer Caroline Wiseman explains: “Picasso, Miró, Moore, Hockney, Frink, Matisse — we have original prints by all of these for between £500 and £1,000. In many cases the edition is large and the image small, but even when the edition is tiny and the print is signed by the artist, the price rarely climbs much higher than £2,000. We have some original lithographs for £50.”

Choice examples currently stocked by Wiseman Originals (the company run by Caroline Wiseman and her husband Garth from their house-cum-gallery in Lambeth, south London) include a late erotic etching by Picasso (probably best described as "Old man ogling nude young thing"), one of only 50, signed, at £2,200, a signed Hockney (one of 100) from his *Grimm's Fairy Tales* set, £5,700 and, the best bargain of all, an etching of a face by Matisse, one of only 15 and signed in pencil, at £2,750.

“ One must pay a realistic price for originals, and it is nice if this rises later. But the joy of the print is really the thing: it's just such fun to collect ”

bug four years ago, has an enviable collection of prints by the modern masters. David Lazarus, a London-based promotional marketing consultant in his late thirties, started with the complete set of ten *Hockney Grimms* "and from there it just grew," Mr Lazarus says. "The trouble is I also collect furniture and pencil drawings and paintings and Staffordshire figures," he says. "Everything, really, but the prints give me enormous pleasure." He is particularly attached to a signed Matisse etching of the head of a nun, a Henry Moore Mother and Child, a few assorted Chagalls and — a major purchase — a

small Toulouse-Lautrec; albeit unsigned (signed and coloured Lautreucs can top £100,000). Mr Lazarus rarely pays more than £2,000 for a print, and often less than half that.

The phrase "original print" may seem a contradiction in terms: how can a print also be an original? Mrs Wiseman explains: "The artist himself must have worked on the stone, in the case of a lithograph, or on the etching plate. Sometimes the artist's signature forms part of the image, sometimes each pull is later signed and numbered in pencil by the artist, and sometimes the print remains unsigned. Often, an edition will

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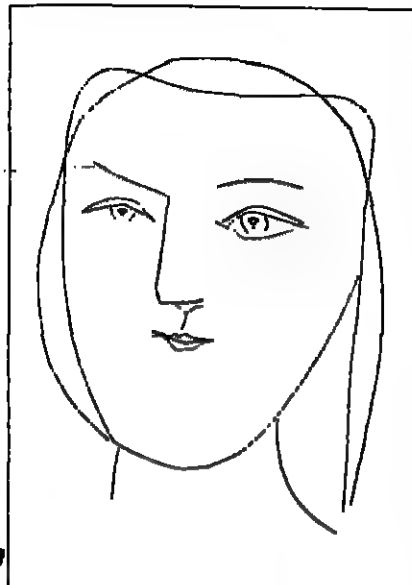
WEEKEND SATURDAY JANUARY 7 1995

# COLLECTING

11

many thousands. However, if you know where to go, an original by a 20th-century great could cost as little as £50

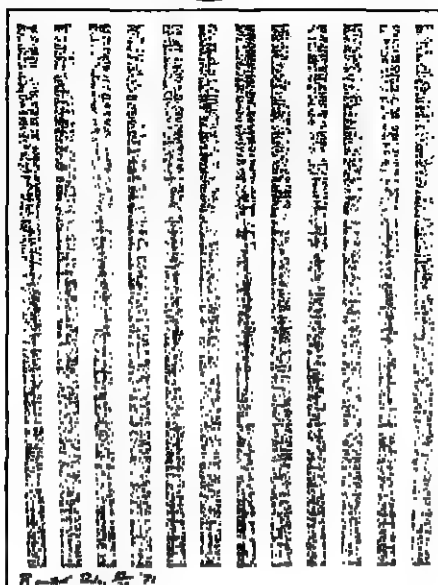
## their etchings



Etching, Carmen, by Pablo Picasso

■ The London Original Print Fair is at the Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-439 7438) from Thursday January 5 to Sunday January 8, 11am-6pm. Admission £5, including catalogue.

■ Recommended reading: How To Identify Prints: A Complete Guide to Manual and Mechanical Processes from Woodcut to Ink-Jet, by Bamber Gascoigne (£25, Thames and Hudson).



Untitled screenprint by Bridget Riley

Prints, above, from Wiseman Originals Ltd in Lambeth, London (01-597 0747). Please call to arrange a viewing.



Left and right: an original etching by John Hoyland entitled Wish; Blue Horse Head, a screenprint by Elisabeth Frink

comprise a mixture of these states, and all this will be recorded in the artist's Catalogue Raisonné. After the edition is complete, Mrs Wiseman says, "the stone or plate is destroyed."

Fakes do exist, of course; neither Mrs Wiseman nor Mr Lazarus will touch Dali, for instance. "It's a shame," Mr Lazarus says, "because he was such a good artist, but the mass production of so-called originals has made the whole area a minefield."

Mrs Wiseman advises caution too in the field of Miró's that hail from America. "Obviously," Mr Lazarus says, "you have to go to reputable dealers and auction houses. The other main piece of advice is never to hesitate if you love a print — buy it, or it will be gone."

But how do you find the space to display a collection? "Most of my collection is under the bed," Mr Lazarus says. "Most collectors sell a few things after a while, but I never have, I should, really — maybe I will. Maybe."

Does Mr Lazarus look on

his prints as an investment? "It's a part of it — one must pay a realistic price, and it is nice if this rises later, but the joy of the print is really the thing: it's just such fun to collect."

Mrs Wiseman also encourages the fun element: browsing around the collection in her home is a social event, and the hospitality is warm. She has five-year-old triplets — all boys — each of whom is now adept at showing people round. Wiseman Originals issue between two and three colour catalogues a year, and the most popular artists are currently Matisse, Hockney, Frink, Eric Gill (the dark horse) and Picasso.

Mr Lazarus's favourite print of the moment is a Picasso: "It's one of his erotic ones. It's not dirty erotic, but pretty near the knuckle, which is maybe why it was underpriced at about £1,000."

Any others? "It's hard to recall them all," Mr Lazarus admits. "I'd better have another look under the bed."

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

## SALE ROOM



■ The regular antique fair, which opened at the Dorchester Hotel two days ago, features an impressive collection of rare tea caddies from the 18th century, the great era of tea drinking. Highlights include a tortoiseshell example inlaid with gold stars (£13,000) and one fashioned in redwood, commemorating the American War of Independence (£7,000). Elsewhere in the fair, the Schuster stand has attractive antiquarian prints starting at £40, while Russian and Greek icons cost from £100 upwards at the Richardson & Kailas stand.

■ Two routine silver and plate sales add a certain shine to the week. The first is at Bonhams in Chelsea on Monday. Expect to pay from £150 to £200 for a Mappin and Webb tea set made in Sheffield in 1923. The wider choice at Christie's South Kensington on Tuesday includes two Victorian christening mugs at £200 to £300, and £300 to £400, and dressing-table sets at £250 to £500.

■ Around 20 magic lanterns come up at Christie's South Kensington's Cameras and Optical Toys sale on Thursday. The most valuable includes slides of monkeys, a goldfish bowl and water rill (£400 to £600). Oddities at the sale include an electrically powered automata of a tourist who raises his Sunpet £26 camera to his eye (estimate £120 to £180).

■ On Thursday, Bonhams celebrates the London Boat Show by holding their annual auction of marine art. Highlights include A Brig Entering Dartmouth Harbour by Thomas Lumy (£10,000 to £15,000) and the swashbuckling The Royal Yacht Squadron Firing a Salute by J. V. De Fleury (estimate £3,000 to £5,000).

■ There is glamour across "the pond" on Thursday and Friday, when Christie's New York sells the contents of Rudolf Nureyev's Manhattan apartment. The late dancer's costume for Don Quixote is estimated at £1,700 to £2,500, while a full-length portrait of a swaggering Lord de Ferrars by Sir Joshua Reynolds is expected to fetch £200,000 to £300,000. But there could be some bargains: Christie's has estimated a pair of ballet shoes inscribed with his name at only £30 to £50.

■ The first West London Antiques Fair begins in Kensington on Thursday, with prices from a few pounds up to the high thousands. Due to strict date limits, there will be no furniture from after 1870; jewellery and prints stop at 1910, while paintings and oriental rugs dating from later than 1930 are banned.

■ The eminent London sculpture dealer, Cyril Humphris, has chosen Sotheby's New York as the venue to sell his entire collection in a two-day sale on Tuesday and Wednesday. Estimates range from £150 for a miniature portrait bust, to £1.5 million for a life-sized marble group of Adam and his hound by the 16th-century Italian master Giovanni Bandini.

■ A miscellaneous selection of furniture, glass, paintings and jewellery awaits browsers at today's preview of Sotheby's Sussex general sale which takes place on Tuesday and Wednesday. In the furniture section an attractive, if "distressed", 19th-century wing armchair could be yours for £150 to £200, while a Victorian pine kitchen dresser is £300 to £500. A number of 20th-century paintings include The Thames, Chiswick by Carel Weight at £200 to £400 and A Pastoral Landscape in the manner of Thomas Gainsborough at £300 to £500.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

■ Bonhams, 65 Lots Road, London SW10 and Montpelier Street, London SW7 (main number to call for both is 01-393 3900). For information on Nureyev sale, call 01-839 9080; Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-581 7611); Dorchester Antiques Fair, the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London (for information call 0277 362623); West London Antiques Fair, Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 (for information call 01-351 9153); Sotheby's New York (for information ring the London office 01-493 8080, or the New York office 010-212 606 7000); Sotheby's, Biltmorsur, West Sussex (0433 783933).

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## Why we need an Encounter

The time is ripe to revive the neglected genre of the serious literary magazine

Real men do not read fiction. They read biographies. Henry Porter in one of those eternally recurring pieces which adapt for new audiences Nancy Mitford's distinction between "U" and "non-U" behaviour.

There are differences between male and female reading habits, but Porter's "real man" has little to do with reality. According to a recent Mori survey for the BBC programme *Bookworm*, nearly as many men read literary fiction as women (13 per cent and 15 per cent respectively), while rather more women (22 per cent) than men (16 per cent) read biographies and autobiographies. Sharper contrasts are visible in the romantic fiction (a female preserve), thrillers and science fiction (predominantly male) and "classic" novels (read by twice as many women as men).

A list of the overall bestsellers for 1994, just published in *The Book Seller*, reinforces the impression that heavyweight writers can compete with their more "commercial" rivals. Among hardbacks, Alan Bennett's autobiography — surely the sharpest contrast possible on the "real men" scale. Of the paperback, the autobiographical *Wild Swans* by Jung Chang came top, but closely followed by two

Booker winners, *Schindler's List* by Thomas Kenneally (helped, of course, by the film) and *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha* by Roddy Doyle, with Vikram Seth's *W. H. Smith* prize-winning *A Suitable Boy* seventh. Commercial and more macho novelists included John Grisham, Tom Clancy, John le Carré and Jeffrey Archer.

So there really is a market for serious modern fiction, and that market includes plenty of men. It is quite artificial to postulate any incompatibility between reading serious fiction and serious non-fiction: most intelligent members of both sexes read both. Just as real women take no notice of Henry Porter, real men do not worry about what other people will think of their reading habits.

Many highly literate people, though, are not at all confident that they know as much as they need about the best new books and writers. True, there is more and, on the whole, better coverage of books in the daily newspapers than ever before, so much so that the books pages of the broadsheet Sunday papers, though still in general excellent, have lost the pre-eminence they enjoyed a generation

ago. But book reviews in mass-circulation papers are not enough for the most voracious readers. The *homme sérieux* demands that concentration on new writing which only the literary magazine can provide.

Here the picture is uneven, and I can mention only a handful of the most prominent. Among the weeklies, *The Spectator* has enjoyed enviable notoriety, a buoyant circulation and outstanding books pages under its present editor, Dominic Lawson. *The Times Literary Supplement* under Ferdinand Mount is livelier and more cosmopolitan than it has ever been, without being less authoritative, and I am told that it is now also paying its own way. The fortnightly *London Review of Books* is as permanent a fixture as any independently-owned but Arts Council-subsidised periodical can be. Mary-Kay Wilmer's un-

adorned pages offer a mixture of amusing hatchet-jobs on writers of the Right and academic virtuoso performances. Auberon Waugh's monthly *Literary Review* has shorter, sharper and more numerous reviews, usually ahead of publication. The quarterly *Granta*, having established a well-deserved reputation for publishing new writers, has just lost its mid-Atlantic moving spirit, Bill Buford, who is leaving to become Tina Brown's literary editor at the *New Yorker*. He will be a loss to this country as well as to *Granta*.

What the general reader still lacks, however, is a highbrow but readable journal which combines the fiction and the non-fiction of life, carrying long articles with a cosmopolitan flavour drawn from across the political and intellectual spectrum. Perhaps *The Spectator* comes closest to this beau ideal at present, though it shares too many writers with its stablemate *The Daily Telegraph* and, being a fashionable weekly, rarely prints pieces of 3,000 words or more.

But the kind of magazine I have in mind actually existed for well over 30 years. It was called *Encounter*, it came out monthly (more or less) and it folded only a couple of years ago. I have just come across an old issue from 1962; it was then at its zenith under Melvin Lasky and Stephen Spender, before the latter resigned in 1967 when it emerged that the magazine had been funded by a CIA front organisation. Whoever paid the bills, the readers were the beneficiaries. For 36d (less than 20p) they could read two stories by Borges (including "The Library of Babel"), a large chunk of *Andorra*, the new play by Max Frisch; a magnificent essay by Nabokov on "Pushkin and Gannibal"; a fine piece on Edith Wharton by Irving Howe, the left-wing editor of the *American Journal of Literature*; Spender on A. Alvarez's *The New Poetry*; a memoir of London by Mordechai Richler; David Marquand on "The Liberal Revival" (foreshadowing the SDP by two decades); and much more.



DANIEL JOHNSON

As it happens, Lasky will be 75 in a week or so. While I was Bonn correspondent of the *Telegraph* in the late 1980s, Lasky used a piece by me as a cover story. The foreign editor told me that this was such an honour that I should have the cover framed. He was right. It is a disgrace that Lasky, who did much to win the battle of ideas during the Cold War, has not been honoured either by the British or the American governments. Stephen Spender, 86 next month, has at least been knighted; poetry is of course more permanent than journalism, and his latest collection appeared only last year. May he live to write many more verses.

Is there any prospect of a new *Encounter*? Various schemes are afoot, one of which has a good chance of coming to fruition this year.

David Goodhart, my *Financial Times* counterpart in Bonn and more recently labour editor, has taken a sabbatical in order to launch a new monthly which is intended to revive at least some aspects of *Encounter*. Goodhart's magazine will be political, not literary: he has concluded that nowadays there is no market for a journal which covers both. But I cannot help feeling that even real men like the world of telegrams and anger to intersect with that of books and ideas.

## No mercy on the hard road to solace

A MAP OF THE WORLD By Jane Hamilton, Doubleday, £14.99

WHEN Jane Austen said: "Let other pens dwell on guilt and misery", she probably did not mean her advice to be taken quite so literally as it is in Jane Hamilton's new novel. This is a skilful and compelling tale, but it is not one for the faint-hearted.

The book opens with a rural idyll, in which Alice and Howard Goodwin look after two daughters and some Golden Guernsey cows on a small farm in the American Midwest. But we know from the first line that there is to be a fall from grace, and it comes almost immediately, with hideous force. Alice, in charge of her best friend's small children, allows one of them out of her sight for a moment and the child drowns in the pond. How can she bear the guilt? Can her friend ever forgive her?

If the novel were simply about this — and for 100 pages or so it seems to be — it would be fair to wonder why we should want to put ourselves through all this grief, however well portrayed. But there is more. When it seems that things have reached their nadir, Alice is arrested for child-molestation. A boy she has treated for colds and stomach aches in her role as part-time school nurse has brought a complaint, and she is locked up with no chance of raising the exorbitant bail.

In this matter at least, there is no question of Alice's being guilty, but the ordeal of false accusation, imprisonment and trial offer her a chance to shoulder her other, much greater, burden, and find, if not redemption, at least a stumbling start towards recovery. From the reader's point of view, the novel gains suspense and a momentum which culminates in a dramatic trial scene, with surprise witnesses, emotional testimonies and prima donna lawyers.

With the corners knocked off, a story that has such a strong female lead, a plot that is a contemporary obsession, and a denouement of such power would seem made for Hollywood. But Hamilton offers no short cuts and little comfort. Her writing is clear, graceful, and, in places, lyrical, but there is no sugar coating to help this medicine go down.

ROSE WILD

## French with tears and wit

ANNA Green's husband, Nick, dies young from cancer. Heartbroken, Anna moves from her native America to the south of France to start again.

*If Wishes Were Horses* is a novel divided between past and present. The past, Nick and Anna's courtship, is written in the third person, but the result is too self-conscious, too twee, often corny.

However, when the novel hops back to the present, with Anna in the first person, Pascal's writing is mercilessly good. The older, sadder Anna is weighed down by very thorough misery. In her brilliant depiction of the merry-go-round of unrelenting grief, Pascal has here not only her soul but her considerable talents. Her descriptions of the all-consuming nature of grief are extraordinarily vivid: "When a great tragedy comes into your world, everything else shrinks to accommodate it," she writes. "The new monster bullies its way in, filling all the corners, squeezing your normal, everyday life against the wall."

Pascal has a good eye, a strong visual imagination. She is also very witty, in a caustic, so-doff kind of way.

As Anna attempts to meet her pain head-on, she realises

■ IF WISHES WERE HORSES By Francine Pascal, Bantam, £5.99

she is living inside an emotional language she does not understand, a feeling compounded by her incompetence in French. She rails against it, but she also laughs about it. Humour, which was a barrier, becomes her strength.

Pascal's descriptions of France are perceptive: "I have noticed fewer walls, fences, and warning signs here," says Anna. "The French seem to feel that competent adults don't need cordons at the side of every road, the edge of every cliff, or the top of every building. If you're dumb enough to go up to the roof and hang off, that's your business. The government isn't your mommy. In the United States, sightseeing areas are treated like hang-outs for the suicidal."

This is a very patchy book, certainly; but it is one which contains writing of vividness, wit and colour. Bantam, promoting it as a novel of sex and sensuality, has done Pascal an injustice. *If Wishes Were Horses* is better than that.

MARY LOUDON

### Derwent May reviews the critics

5.5 *Pleasure ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Column centimetres indicate the length of reviews to date in national broadsheet newspapers*

3.5 *Djinn and tonic: A.S. Byatt was the first author to hit the headlines last year with her *Matisse Stories*, and she has done it again this year with a*

volume of five fairy tales, *The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye* (Chato, £9.99). The reviewers liked the title story best. It is "very much a tale about telling", said Sarah A. Smith in *The Literary Review* — it is about a middle-aged narrator who makes love to a djinn in her Istanbul hotel room — but "Byatt moves skilfully between the modern and the traditional tale and weaves a thread between the

two". Helen Dunmore in *The Observer* agreed: "Byatt dissects this drama of success with lightness, precision and grace". In *The Independent* on Sunday, Andy Beckett felt that some of the tales were "tricky" — just "jokes and nudges against convention". But Rachel Cusk in *The Times* called them "wonderful stories" that drew on "the memory of belief". Col cmt: 119

## The Times/Dillons Bestsellers of 1994

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- 2 POSTMORTEM Patricia D. Cornwell (Warner) £4.99
- 3 ALL THAT REMAINS Patricia D. Cornwell (Warner) £4.99
- 4 BODY OF EVIDENCE Patricia D. Cornwell (Warner) £5.99
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- 6 CROCODILE BIRD Ruth Rendell (Arrow) £4.99
- 7 MISSING JOSEPH Elizabeth George (Bantam) £4.99
- 8 CHILDREN OF MEN P. D. James (Penguin) £4.99
- 9 ORIGINAL SIN P. D. James (Faber) £14.99
- 10 THE BODY FARM Patricia D. Cornwell (Little Brown) £14.99

### SPORT

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- 2 CLOUGH: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY Brian Clough (Partridge) £16.99
- 3 MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY Ian Botham (Collins Willow) £15.99
- 4 SUMMERS WILL NEVER BE THE SAME Christopher Martin-Jenkins (Partridge) £12.99
- 5 VENABLES: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY Terry Venables (Michael Joseph) £16.99
- 6 PLAYFAIR CRICKET ANNUAL ed. Bill Frindall (Headline) £3.99
- 7 MY FAVOURITE YEAR ed. Nick Hornby (Collins) £4.99
- 8 MORE VIEWS FROM THE BOUNDARY Brian Johnston (Mandarin) £22.50
- 9 WISDEN CRICKETER'S ALMANAC ed. Matthew Engel (P. Wisden) £22.50
- 10 SUNDAY TIMES ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF FOOTBALL Chris Newrat & Steve Hutchings (Hamlyn) £19.99

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## Empty arms and the man

Heather Neill is moved by a husband's lovelorn pain

BREAKING up, as we all know, is hard to do. But keeping a detailed chronicle of the experience may have its compensations.

Dan Franck's protagonist in *Separation* is an author, whose wife of seven years begins to withdraw from him. Eventually, she admits that she is in love with someone else and, as they consider their future, together or apart, he keeps notes. Later, this emotional minute-taking will be turned into a book. His friends encourage him "because it's important not only for you, but for all of us, for all the men of our generation".

And that is probably the reason for *Separation*'s success. Published in France, where it was awarded the Prix Renaudot, and translated into 11 languages, it arrives in Britain garlanded with extravagant praise.

We are left in no doubt that this man is suffering as much as any woman could, that for him love is not, as Byron claimed, "a thing apart". Society — sophisticated, liberal, middle-class French society, anyway — cannot comprehend this, assuming, for instance, that the law will always grant custody of children under ten to the woman.

Franck's account is a documentary of pain, both clinical and intensely personal. The reader is invited to share raw fear, petty jealousy, the anguish of disintegration with characters who remain nameless. The children are simply

■ SEPARATION By Dan Franck, Black Swan, £5.99

the First Child and the Baby and, numerous, charming, lunch-consuming friends are mere extras, cryptically distinguished by letters of the alphabet, M, V or R. Day by day, the relationship shifts: he believes he is winning, as if at chess; she cannot make up her mind to go; Valium dependent, in despair at losing his children, he throws down one ultimatum after another, knowing that he is incapable of carrying out any threat. Seen only through his jaundiced eyes, she seems cruel, spiteful and vacillating.

As a piece of writing, *Separation* must be judged through the filter of Jon Rothchild's insistent American translation. To English ears, the inflections and vocabulary suggest New York rather than Paris. The Franck/Rothchild prose veers from awkwardness to welcome simplicity to sudden eruptions of pomposity such as: "They have deliberately watered down the conjugal wine, carefully emptying the cup of discord well before it is full."

Is the news that men can suffer for love such a literary revelation? After all, Andrew Davies's *Getting Hurt* was published five years ago. Nevertheless, real blood runs through these pages and the conclusion is moving simply because there can never really be one.



The thinking man's thinking men of pop, the Pet Shop Boys, faced the prospect of their 1991 debut American tour with defiant apprehension, Ian Brunskill writes. How would the land that brought the world the Eagles respond to the idiosyncratic wit of two sharp, gay blades at the cutting edge of disco? And who would pay to see a group with no drummer?

Without, in fact, any musicians on stage at all. Lest anyone mistake them for a rock band, Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe copped confidently across America in an outrageous multi-

media extravaganza. Directed by David Alden, perpetrator of such highbrow horrors as English National Opera's "chainsaw" staging of Tchaikovsky's *Mazeppa*, the show used dancers, projections and unlikely props to tell a tale in which substance was never in much danger of triumphing over style.

The result is engagingly documented in Chris Heath's book, *The Pet Shop Boys versus America* (Penguin, £10), illustrated if not illuminated by the handsomely enigmatic photographs by Pennie Smith.

## Carol O'Connell has come a long way from the slush pile

Last year was a good one for first novels, but few new authors have done better than Carol O'Connell. Her novel, *Malloy's Oracle*, plucked from a publisher's slush pile, comes out in paperback this month (Arrow, £4.99).

O'Connell was the archetypal writer living in a garret. The "garret" was a one-room apartment on New York's lower West Side, and she survived on occasional sales of her paintings as well as freelance proofreading and copy editing, with a one-legged bird called Rags for company.

Before selling her manuscript to Hutchinson, she had tried several American publishers, who had rejected her work with the suggestion that she find a literary agent. This drew rejections, too.

I was working for Random House at the time when *Malloy's Oracle* was discovered

## Fortune from the Oracle



O'Connell: archetypal

on the slush pile, and I was therefore involved in the acquisition and selling of it. After Hutchinson had signed a two-book contract with O'Connell, I sent the manuscript to the scouts in London who talent-spot for various overseas publishers. Some quickly saw the brilliance of her writing and felt her character, Sgt Kathleen Malloy, together with the New York setting, would be a hotly contested for by foreign publishers. It is a sad but true fact that it is often

easier to sell abroad a novel which is set in America than one set in Britain and this one was no exception.

The Frankfurt Book Fair is the key time to hype up the "hot" books and it is the best place to sell something wonderful, if you are lucky enough to have it. The Dutch publisher, Unieboek, bought the novel on the basis of 100 pages, and other foreign publishers were quick to follow. By publication in hardcover in Britain, *Malloy's Oracle* had earned world rights of more than \$1m, with American rights going to Putnam for more than \$300,000.

The reviews were spectacular, too, both in Britain and America. *The Times* reviewer described it as "something close to a masterpiece — a very good crime thriller, with an intriguingly original heroine", and an ecstatic New York *Times* review helped to rocket O'Connell to cult status.

Inspired by the excitement of finding a new author and selling rights for huge sums of money, I have joined the ever-increasing band of publishers-turned-agents and O'Connell has moved into a large apartment in Manhattan's trendy West Side.

GEORGINA CAPEL

## Stitched together

WRITING a sequel to a famous work of fiction seems like an easy option. With plot, characters and setting already given, all the writer has to do is tidy up a few loose ends and provide some answers to all those nagging questions so often left unresolved at the end of great novels. For example, what exactly happens to the monster at the end of the original work? Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* By Hilary Bailey Simon & Schuster, £12.99

men, is around. Frankenstein's wife and child are horribly murdered — and suspicion falls on the character with the lantern jaw and boiling brows seen hanging around the Frankenstein establishment on the night in question. The monster — for it is he — has other things on his mind: the most urgent being his need for a bride.

It does not take a scientific genius (even a mad one) to work out that the bride and the monster are one and the same, or that when Maria does eventually speak, she is revealed as every bit as monstrous as her brutish paramour.

■ FRANKENSTEIN'S BRIDE: the sequel to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* By Hilary Bailey Simon & Schuster, £12.99

The plot lurches towards its close with the same predictability as the monster lurches towards his bride — and the whole turgid exercise ends with Frankenstein's long-overdue demise. The only consolation is that — without some further act of literary resurrection — there can be no sequel to this misbegotten sequel.

CHRISTINA KONING

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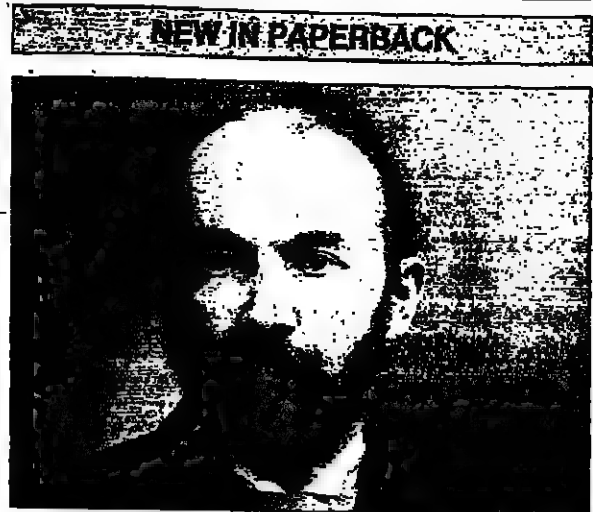


## BOOKS

15

## Him indoors

Graham Lord learns a grim lesson from the tale of a househusband



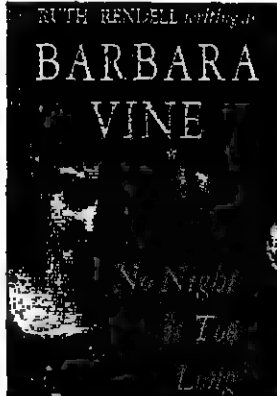
Hardy: was he as sensitive and intelligent as his books?

**■ HARDY**  
By Martin Seymour-Smith  
Bloomsbury, £12.99  
History has painted Thomas Hardy as a misogynist, yet Tess of the D'Urbervilles remains one of literature's most enduring heroines. He was a mean-minded snob, it seemed, who nonetheless championed the social values of Jude the Obscure and myriad other working-class protagonists.

This huge and almost excessively informative biography seeks to challenge prevailing opinions on Hardy's personality and prove that his treatment of wives and lovers has been misunderstood, that the man was as sensitive and intelligent as the books. In doing this,

Seymour-Smith contradicts earlier biographers such as Millgate and Gittings, challenging assertions that Hardy was impotent with evidence of sexual experience dating from pre-pubesence, and proving that allegations of "meanness" were no more than skill in negotiating the shark-infested Victorian literary marketplace.

On Hardy's writing there is less to challenge us. The novels are treated reverentially and the poems all but neglected. Constant intimations that Hardy was the greatest English author since Shakespeare are less convincing than Seymour-Smith's meticulous defence of his personality.



**■ NO NIGHT IS TOO LONG**  
By Barbara Vine  
Viking, £9.99

A dark, watery masterpiece from Vine/Rendell, suffused with sexuality, which explores with hypnotic effect the psychological path between passion and murder. From a room overlooking the lonely Norfolk coastline, Tim Cornish confesses to his impulsive bisexual love life, haunted all the while by the ghost of his former love Ivo. Tim has apparently murdered Ivo on an island off the desolate Alaskan shore in order to be with Isabel, who has stirred in him a passion he has never known before. But the arrival of mysterious letters suggests a different fate awaits him. Perfect control of mood and characterisation and an ingenious twist at the end.

**■ RETURN TO PARADISE**  
By Breyten Breytenbach  
Faber, £8.99

A fiercely eloquent and deeply personal portrait of the new South Africa by a leading Afrikaner poet. Breytenbach left his native land in 1960, but was arrested during a clandestine visit in 1975 and imprisoned for seven years. Written around a recent three-month long journey through the country (Breytenbach now lives in Paris) the book interweaves the author's past and present dreams and experiences with acutely observed accounts of people and politics, landscape and customs, family and friends. Well-informed yet intimate, this angry, witty, painfully honest journal is a fascinating evocation of a beautiful, turbulent land of paradoxes.



**■ SLOW WALTZ IN CEDAR BEND**  
By Robert James Waller  
Mandarin, £4.99

The plot of Waller's first best-selling romance, *The Bridges of Madison County*, is summarised for us by his publisher: "A Man. A Woman. The heat of an Iowa summer. And the brief encounter whose passion will last a lifetime." Pretty much the same could be said of this one. Michael Tillman, brilliant but maverick professor at a Midwestern university, falls heavily and instantly for Jellie Braden, wife of a worthy but dull colleague. But Jellie has a past, that leads inexorably back to India. Waller is a slick storyteller who knows how to spice the old ingredients so they come up tasting new. In spite of yourself, you won't be able to put this down.

Contributors: Giles Coren, Alexander Ross, Lucy Lethbridge, Helen Davidson, Nicka Household, Hazel Leslie, Gray Walters

JAMES Leith has had more than his fair share of luck. He is the brother of the more famous Prue and husband of the delectable Penny Junior, the biographer, businesswoman and presenter of *The Travel Show*. He has four delightful offspring, aged between seven and 21, lives in a big country house in Wiltshire and is the son-in-law of the rich and kindly tabloid columnist, Sir John Junior, who helped him to buy his first big house. Even his mother-in-law, Lady Pam, is "a saint", he says.

Best of all, Leith's wife is so successful that he no longer needs to go out to work, but spends most days at home or playing squash.

Yet few men would change places with him, for the price of his paradise is high: while his alarmingly Junoesque

**■ IRONING JOHN: The Housewife's Tale**  
By James Leith  
Doubleday, £14.99

wife is out and about, earning fame and fortunes, he lounges at home in his metaphorical pinny, looking after the big house and garden, the laundry, six chickens, five cats, four children, two geese, a rabbit and a farrowing Great Dane called Ballou.

Two years ago this week, fed up with his attempts to make a decent living as an actor and restaurateur, Leith made one of the bravest New Year resolutions ever and decided that, while his wife worked on

her biography of John Major, he would become instead a New Man, a 47-year-old househusband (or "houseworm"). It sounds like horribly hard work.

"The biggest shock to the average working Joe's system if he had to take up housework," says Leith, in his chatty account of life as a full-time homemaker, "would be the reality of dealing with his children on a 24-hour basis."

It is a brave, determinedly jolly book, written in a jaunty transatlantic slang ("c'mon", "guten", "okay, Doctor Freud, listen up") and full of self-deprecatory jokes and throwaway lines like this: "The

ironing board is a deckchair with an attitude problem."

His daily schedule begins at 6.30am, and he reports: "Until you have removed a half-expelled but undigested Sainsbury's carrier bag from the arsehole of a distressed and very astonished Great Dane, you haven't lived."

But beneath all the bonhomie is a cry for help. "What do you want?" he asks his family belligerently. "Clean or tidy? I don't do both."

He points out glumly that a recent poll showed that four out of five women — even feminists — think that any man doing a traditionally female job has something wrong with his sexuality, and he suggests that he has only survived because of a deficiency of testosterone and a surfeit of booze.



Leith: not quite Mr Lucky

Leith is a man who desperately needs to be rescued. He even provides menus for meals for three weeks and recommends "any Delia Smith book," despite the fact that his sister is the celebrated cook, Prue Leith.

His terrible horror story should be read by every young man who hopes to survive into the 21st century. Its message is clear: keep working!

## Unquiet spirits in the tall grass

■ THE GRASS DANCER  
By Susan Power  
Picador, £9.99

IN 1864, in the Sioux tribal lands of North Dakota, Ghost Horse, a handsome young warrior, falls in love with the beautiful Red Dress. But their tribal ancestors and gods have a mission for Red Dress, which leads to her murder. Thereafter, the desire of the couple's unquiet spirits to be reunited echoes down the generations of their families, twisting all their fates to this one design. "We were victims of utter faith," says Red Dress, and so too are most of the characters in this powerful and beautifully written novel.

The book begins in 1981 and moves episodically back to 1864 and forward again to 1986. As the plot reveals itself, we learn of a people for whom the Spirit Path and the temporal one run only the width of a shadow apart. Where faith is strong, the two meet, and the result is magic. But as Anna Thunder, a woman of formidable and sometimes malicious power, says, "Magic let loose can take on a life of its own". Even in the modern age, the characters in *The Grass Dancer* find their faith brings anguish as well as succour.

In Anna Thunder, Powers has created a mastery and memorable figure, outstanding even among a cast of other strongly drawn characters. At 70, she still uses her spells to bind the most handsome young men of the tribe to her will, and has no qualms about using magic to secure advantage for herself and her family. But she knows that the spirits are using her and there is a price for her power.

The novel derives much of its beguiling charm from Powers' prose, which moves seamlessly between the quotidian detail of reservation life and the world of the spirits, presenting a convincing picture of the life and lore of the Sioux. But she avoids ethnic special pleading: Her characters are poor but they are not impoverished, and they earn the reader's respect and affection through their natural virtues, wisdom and weaknesses.

*The Grass Dancer* is a considerable accomplishment. That it is Power's first novel only makes it the more remarkable.

PETER INGHAM



Horse sense: Robin Hood's Bay, photographed by Margaret Monck in the late 1930s, from *The Other Observers: Women Photographers in Britain 1900 to the Present* by the photographic historian Val Williams, reissued by Virago, £18 — "giving women back some of their history"

Mary Wesley's dark subject matter belies her cosy image, says Penny Perrick

## Mary, quite contrary

■ AN IMAGINATIVE EXPERIENCE  
By Mary Wesley  
Bantam, £5.99

Julia, blames her for the death of Julia's sadistic husband in a car crash, which has also killed Julia's little boy, Julia, like Hebe, in *Harnessed Peacocks*, is an angel in the house. Hebe was a wonderful cook, Julia earns her living as a cleaner; both of them have been treated heartlessly by their families and are Cinderellas for our times.

Middle-class mores and sexual values are up for piercing examination, as they usually are in Wesley's work. Previous novels have demonstrated that Wesley has more sympathy for a woman who takes up part-time prostitution to keep a beloved child in school or a man who, out of kindness, beds the wife of an unfeeling husband, than she does for people who cause needless

demands of his persistent former secretary and distracted from his quest by a series of skilfully managed coincidences which keep Julia hidden from view.

All the time, long-held secrets of the soul are being shudderingly bared as horrific events cause chilly attempts at self-control to collapse. It is as though the characters are masquerading as ordinary citizens — gripping briefcases, tugging on oven gloves — while all the time they are disguised ciphers who represent good and evil.

Since Wesley's books deal with incest, adultery, murder and lashings of sometimes quite bizarre sex, it is odd that they have the reputation of being rather cosy. Perhaps this is because of their tidy structure and the appealing descriptions of houses, gardens and dogs that are intermingled with the themes of love and loss.

An *Imaginative Experience* deals with racial injustice and intolerance as well as the need to come to terms with the death of a child. Hardly cosy subjects, but because of Wesley's admirable lack of earnestness and her wry, dispassionate style, the book enchants as well as disturbs.



Wesley: fairy-tale themes

pain to others. To her, heartlessness is the greatest sin. Sex, when a source of mutual solace and delight, can never be wicked.

In *An Imaginative Experience*, Julia is stalked by a sinister birdwatcher. Coming slowly but surely to her rescue is a decent, dithery publisher, shaking himself free of the

## The dying game

■ SUNRISE WITH SEA MONSTER  
By Neil Jordan  
Chatto & Windus, £9.99

background, the inattentive reader may remain confused over the political loyalties of the chief characters.

Nevertheless, father and son end up sharing several things: an inability to communicate, the loss of the wife/mother, the ritual of sea-fishing, and Rose, the young, heroic stepmother who nurses the father after a stroke leaves him speechless and immobilised, says Donald freed from a Francoist prison, sleeps with him on his return, and accompanies him on his near-farcical foray into espionage.

Jordan knows a thing or two about men — how they stagger along under the silent burden of non-communication, how they seek expression and fulfilment in either physical activity or ideology or both and fail to find much satisfying in either, and how they eventually come to rely upon women.

Jordan tackles all of these themes, and some others besides, and that is some achievement.

ROBERT CRAMPTON

## Ein Volk, ein Reich, two novels

IN the post-Cold War thriller, Nazis are back in fashion. I suppose they never really went away.

Both Daniel Easternman and Paul Folsom have put the jackboot back into blockbusters recently. But now along come two veterans of the thriller genre with plots that might be more accurately described as action-packed historical novels, which at least have the advantage of putting the Nazis in realistic rather than fantastic context.

The title of Allibury's *As Time Goes By* is unfortunate, conjuring up visions of Bogey and Bergman by the piano in *Casablanca*. But then, as the schmaltzy, romantic jacket by Paul Wright indicates, this is an unabashed exercise in nostalgia. The flashback opening, with the old-world figure of Harry Bailey entertaining his leggy

■ AS TIME GOES BY  
By Ted Allibury  
Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99

■ SHEBA  
By Jack Higgins  
Michael Joseph, £14.99

daughters at the Special Forces Club before satisfying their curiosity about the mother they hardly knew, calls for soft focus even before the fade-out.

His tale of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) is a finely balanced and wholly credible story of the tensions, sacrifices and fearful sense of futility of individuals in wartime. It benefits hugely from the links allowed by his well-to-do heroine Jenny's cosmopolitan past with a family of aristocratic young Germans dragged into the ranks of the SS and Gestapo.

Clearly Allibury's own wartime experiences in the Intelligence Corps helped him with the verisimilitude; it is a shame they did not help him more with his German, allowing several silly slips which mar the book. Just where is Berchtesgaden, perhaps?

The one historical figure who makes a cameo appearance in both these novels — and cast in a sympathetic light — is Admiral Wilhelm Canaris, head of German military intelligence (and subsequently executed after the July 1944 bomb plot against Hitler). In Jack Higgins's *Sheba*, he is involved in a plot to bomb the Suez canal from an archaeological site in the desert. What gives this book its initial bite is that this is no ordinary site, but the tomb of the legendary Queen of Sheba herself.

complete with wall paintings of her meeting with Solomon. Which, as a backdrop for a plot, is on a par with *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and enough to set my fingers turning the pages.

Unfortunately, as so often with Higgins, the writing simply is not up to it. His sense of time and place is better than in some of his recent novels, such as the lamentable *On Dangerous Ground*. But the fact remains that Higgins's rapid-fire output produces pot-boilers unlikely to satisfy any post-adolescent. If *As Time Goes By* is Mary Wesley's *Camomile Lawn* to the sound of bombs, then *Sheba* is sadly no more than a great canvas on which Higgins has written *Biggles Goes to War*. With apologies to Capt W. E. Johns.

PETER MILLAR

## THURSDAY

Ian McIntyre on the vivid, unexpectedly vulgar letters of Patrick White  
Rachel Cusk on the *Prince of West End Avenue*

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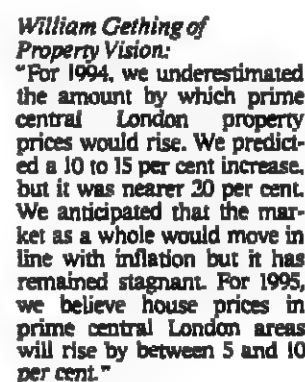




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THE VIEW IS THE SELLER

● **Additional reporting by Morag  
Preston**

[illegible]



GREECE: A resort near Mount Athos; and the tiny island of Leros

## A holiday made in heaven

### Getting there

**B**uilt in the 1920s by immigrants on the site of its ancient namesake on the Khalkidhiki peninsula in northern Greece, Ouranopolis is quite new but not really modern. A road-paving scheme may be in progress, but in the meantime, housewives in black sprinkle the side streets with water each morning to settle the dust. The village is small: 1,000 people, a handful of shops, a few tavernas, one church, no bank. There is a sight for those who enjoy sightseeing: a 14th-century stone tower that watches over the harbour.

Ouranopolis translates literally as the City of Heaven, named after the god of the heavens, Ouranos (Uranus). His grandson, Zeus, won his ascendancy on battlefields nearby. Much later, St Paul began his Christian mission just up the coast at Kavala.

Legendary Greek hospitality is practised here. Time and again I was given coffee and ouzo; one man mending his nets offered me a fish.

I was in Ouranopolis for the feast of St Helen and St Constantine on May 21. A regulation church service began the day. But by midday, the good saints were being venerated with races along the waterfront. By evening, the whole village had turned out for a terrific party in the town square, with food and ouzo and traditional dancing to a bouzouki band.

When the band packed up, the party caravanned to a starlit disco on the water's

edge, and danced until dawn. A short walk along the beach from Ouranopolis brings you to the boundary of the holy precinct of Mount Athos, which is separated from the rest of the world by a fence. Mount Athos, a huge finger of land jutting into the Aegean, is an independent theocratic republic, and a living relic of Byzantium. Several thousand monks work and worship there in 20 monasteries, and countless smaller groups.

Women are banned from the Mount. No female of any kind — human or animal — has set foot there since 1060. The monks do welcome a few male visitors. In the 1830s, Robert Curzon visited the mountain, collecting antique vellum books from the monks' libraries. The British Museum has them now. He noted, to his chagrin, that female bedbugs, at least, had pierced the exclusion zone, and were raising large families in the very shadow of the holy mountain.

I took a cruise along the coast, hoping to catch a glimpse of this other world. Our caique shadowed, at a "safe" distance, the ferry that deposits pilgrims onshore. I saw no living thing at all, only twine-coloured roads, walled towns, and curtains that flapped in empty windows.

While in Ouranopolis, we took a day to tour, by bus, the Pauline sights, which included the stream where St Paul baptised his first continental convert, Lydia. There we soaked our aching feet.

Ouranopolis is too remote, really, to serve as a base to tour the sites associated with Alexander the Great, although we did try. Hiring a car, we made an American-style one-day tour of the ruins of his birthplace at Pella and the palace and tomb of his father, Philip II, at Vergina.

Late that night, winding over the mountains and down into Ouranopolis, we could see the moon reflected in the harbour. Laughter floated out from the tavernas. I wondered why we had ever left.

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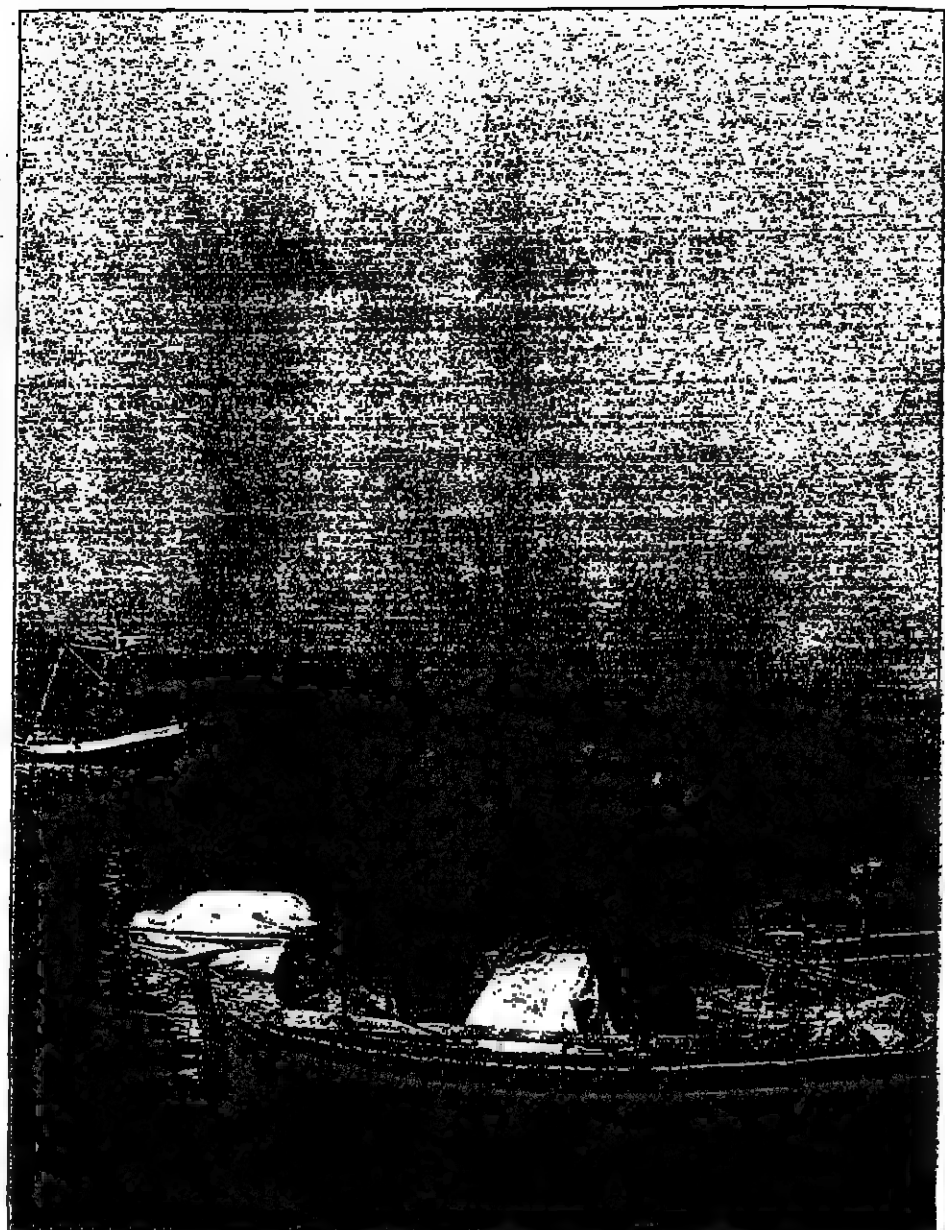
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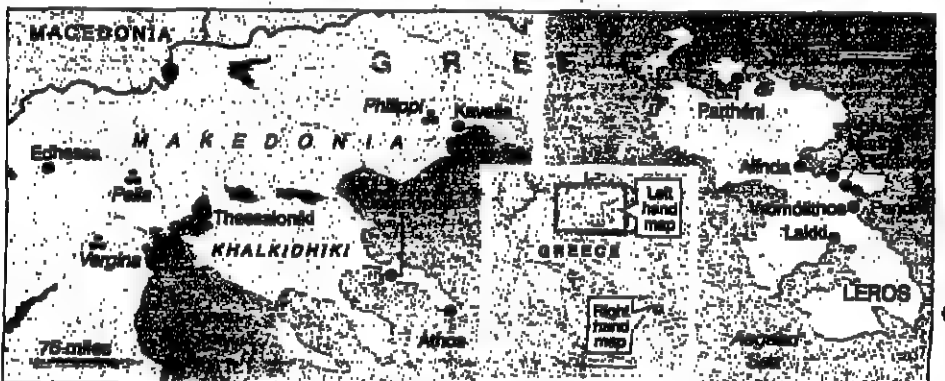
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The harbour at Ouranopolis, a village that still offers legendary Greek hospitality



TONY PATRICK

## Unspoilt for choice on a small, gentle isle

**T**he half-dozen cars that haunted the terraces of the Castle Vigla apartments on the island of Leros were sleek and healthy, but the English couple talking to the owner, Costa, found them upsetting. What should they do to discourage them, they asked.

Costa, always delighted to help his guests, immediately had the answer: "Don't eat them!" His reassuring smile faded when he saw the couple's horrified faces. "Don't give them food," he explained, and then returned to selecting bread and pastries from the baker who drives the half-mile up the single track from the main road every morning.

Castle Vigla's stone-built apartments, ten in all, are scattered along the crest of a ridge between the resort of Vromolothos and the harbour town of Lakki, with a view of the former across the bay and, beyond, the fishing harbour of Pandeli and the capital Platani, dominated by the old Venetian fortress on its crag. The single track, no through-road offers traffic-free peace, rare in Greece, and most visitors gladly made easy access for that.

Not that travelling around Leros could ever be especially difficult: the island is barely a dozen miles long, and in places only half a mile across from shore to shore. From any hilltop there are sea views on at least two sides and, although there is only one bus, there are 28 taxis, easily summoned, reasonably priced and willing to take you to the farthest beach and return for you at an agreed time. Tips are still sometimes refused. Many people on the island speak serviceable English and some are fluent in American or Australian idioms, having emigrated and then returned, or like Costa, a former admiral, having served in the Greek navy overseas.

Leros is one of the more northerly of the Dodecanese islands, "above" Rhodes and



A lone chapel stands on a hillside below the ancient castle in Platani. Gentle hills make this perfect walking country

next to Turkey in the eastern Aegean. It has an airstrip with a daily flight from Athens, but British visitors generally arrive by boat or hydrofoil from Kos.

The boat journey, after a four-hour flight, can seem tedious, especially if delays mean that you arrive, as I did, in darkness. However, the compensation is that, when leaving, the three hours on a sea of blue glass, under a warm sun, make the gentlest of transitions to the noise and stress of the outside world.

Leros beaches vary from a few metres of secluded, boulder-strewn shingle at the bottom of a precipitous track — such as the one below Castle

Vigla — to long stretches of sand — as at Bilefontis — with the narrow but perfectly clean beaches of Alinda and Vromolothos somewhere in between. Beyond the main beach at Alinda you can walk or ride

on about 800 metres to Panagias, the only place on the island where topless or nude bathing is countenanced; it is not compulsory.

Like most Greek islands, Leros has changed hands on

many occasions, generally in violent circumstances. The Venetians, the Knights of St John, the Turks and, early this century, the Italians have all had control. Handsome, picturesque, restored or ruinous evidence is all around you.

If the British have heard of the island, it is generally because of the devastating attack by the Luftwaffe on September 26, 1943, three weeks after the Italian garrison had surrendered to the Allies, and the resultant British casualties. There is a small, well-tended war cemetery near Alinda, and every year the anniversary is marked by a public holiday, with a visit by Greek navy

ships, a parade and a service at the quayside memorial in Lakki.

Although there are good bars, tavernas and shops (including an excellent patisserie/confectioner) in Lakki, the atmosphere is notably different from that ten minutes' away in the narrow, twisty roads of Platani, and the waterside areas of Aghia Marina and Pandeli. The latter two have a choice of five or six tavernas, where the fish on offer will have been landed only an hour or two before. Here and in Vromolothos and Alinda there are eating places literally on the waterline, and bars varying from the strictly traditional ouzeri and kafeneion to avant-garde designer hangouts, complete with sound systems oozing latin jazz one moment and plangent, modern Greek ballads the next.

Walking opportunities are excellent: most of the hills are gentle and the distances are not great. Cars, mountain bikes or (not recommended) mopeds and motorcycles are available for hire. Everywhere the people are friendly and accommodating: you are likely to be pressed to accept free drinks or additional courses, such as the basket of guavas I was offered after a beach-side lunch in Alinda: "from my garden," said the smiling hotel proprietor.

TONY PATRICK

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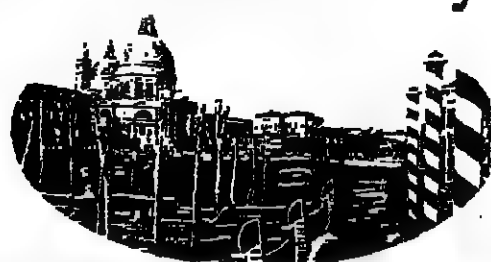
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## TRAVEL

19

SPAIN: Leave the lager louts behind and discover a different side, plus the beauties of the Asturian coast



Book soon if you want to spend Holy Week in Seville to watch the processions and festivities, and admire the traditional costumes of the locals

## Ten ways to enjoy Spain

Many take to the beaches, and who can blame them? Here, to change the pace, are ten suggestions for a different experience of Spain.

Touring by car is often the most satisfying. As a starting point for the imagination, we offer several of an almost infinite number of routes.

Car ferries are an excellent way of getting there (see below for prices). For fly-drive packages, reckon on an average of £80 to £100 per person per night for flight, car, hotel and breakfast, with obvious variables such as season, length of stay, grade of accommodation, all affecting price.

**A Walk on the Wild Side**  
WITH WILD countryside and mountains galore, Spain is an excellent walker's country. The Ordesa National Park in the central Pyrenees, with a great rift valley at its heart, is a good place to start, with walks in the verdant valley bottom and thrilling routes among the rocky landscapes higher up. Unsuitable in winter.

PGO ferry to Bilbao (0304 203388), eight-day return for car and up to five people from £431, including cabin; then drive, or fly Avia (071-830 0011) from Stansted to Zaragoza, price likely to be £190 return from late April; then hire a car.

Or you can take an excursion led by Hugh Arbuthnot in Spain's deep south, among the wild flowers and white villages of Andalusia.

Abercrombie and Kent (071-730 9600). From £966 for a week, all inclusive.

Follow the Pilgrims

THE GREATEST European



Cordoba: horseshoe arches in the ancient Grand Mosque

pilgrimage of the Middle Ages led from France, across northern Spain to Santiago de Compostela, in far Galicia. The route is wonderful, with its shifting landscapes, and great array of Romanesque architecture. Romanesque stone-carving is the thing, from the capitals in the porch of Jaca cathedral, at the start, to the smiling benevolence of the Portico de la Gloria in Santiago itself.

Mundi Color (071-828 6021) offer scheduled flight, hire car and hotels (including B&B), for about £700 per person per week.

**Drive in the Mountains**  
THE LIMESTONE fangs of the Picos de Europa rise in the middle of Spain's northern coast. This often near-vertical countryside has a strong pull for walkers and climbers. But, when the weather is clear, it's equally rewarding to drive around the range. Fine views, mountain freshness, good food (try the Hotel Oso, at Cosgaya near Fuente De) or the Casa Julián at Nisierias). Britany Ferries to Santander (0752 221321), car and up to five people from

around £354 (April/May), then drive. And/or rent a house in the Picos via Secret Spain (0449 736096): a house for four in May from £275. Or take a fly-drive package with Travelscene (081-427 8800): three nights, spring and early summer from £267.

**A Perfect Day in the Basque Country**

SAN SEBASTIAN is the first real city for those entering Spain from southwest France. Elegant and charming, it backs a near-circular bay, with a mountain on either side of the narrow entrance. You could walk or take a dip on the town beach, put down a few excellent bar snacks (tapas) in the Old Town, then go on to any one of a multitude of restaurants — merluza en salsa verde (hake in green sauce) is a speciality.

Finish the day at a pelota match, played in a walled court by young Basques, with scoop-shaped baskets on the end of their arms. It's the fastest game on earth, they say, with fast and furious betting on the outcome. By car from France or fly Iberia to Bilbao (071-830 0011), current return offer £125, rising to £175; or PGO car ferry (0304 203388), also to Bilbao (see above for prices; also Mundi Color etc for package).

Paradise and Conquistadors

SPAIN'S state-run hotels, the Paradores, usually occupy historic buildings. There is a good network in the Spanish Wild West, the remote region of Extremadura, with paradores

set in former castles, palaces, monasteries and convents. Extremadura produced a high proportion of the conquistadors, those fierce fighters who captured South America for Spain. You can visit the Conquistador towns (Caceres, Trujillo, Zafra among them) in comfort and elegance by using the paradores.

Book in UK via Keytel (071-402 8182). About £42 per person per night, B&B; tax 7 per cent extra. Or take a tailor-made tour with Unicorn (0532 83400), one-week self-drive package, including flight, from £790; or Mundi Color (as above); or Magic of Spain (081-748 4999).

**Book in Barcelona**

EVERYBODY has heard of Las Ramblas, that wonderful road-and-walkway, complete with buskers, newspaper kiosks, bird-sellers and dappled sun and shadow underneath the plane trees. Gaudi's Sagrada familia, with its spiky tentacles, is another favourite. But there are scores of other Modernist buildings: all the new buildings put up for the recent Olympics: masses of Catalan art, from the Romanesque masters of the Pyrenees to Joan Miró. And don't forget the hyper-trendy nightclubs. Travelscene (081-427 8800) offers two nights from £194, including flight, B&B, transfer and historical-site discount card.

**Moors and Romans: Go to Cordoba**

COMPARED with Seville and Granada, Cordoba is the least-visited of the Moorish cities of southern Spain. The Great Mosque is deeply impressive, and the brilliant white of the old lewy which surrounds it, full of patios and granjerías, is also a knockout. Magic of Spain (as above) offers three nights fly-drive to Cordoba from £311, or a one-week split-centre break taking in the Andalusian White Towns, from £411.

Don Quixote and the Knights  
ALMAGRO, south of Madrid, is virtually unknown to outsiders, yet it has the loveliest main square in Spain, the only

surviving theatre of the Golden Age and the nearby castle-on-a-crag which gave its name to the Military Order of the Knights of Calatrava.

For an offbeat tour, start here and strike east into La Mancha, in the wake of Don Quixote. Here you will certainly meet other visitors, but windmills, too, and a wide, wine-growing plain. Try pisto manchego — the Spanish version of ratatouille — and drink the local Valdepeñas wine.

Parador booking with Keytel as above, or see Paradores and Conquistadors for touring companies.

**The Strangest Architecture in Europe**

FOR SOMEWHERE really odd and beautiful, go to Teruel in southern Aragon. For centuries after the Christian Reconquest, a large population of Moors continued to live in Spain. Their craftsmen worked for Christian masters to produce a startling hybrid architecture (and design) known as Mudejar. Teruel is full of Mudejar towers decorated in patterns of raised brick with ceramic inserts. The carved wooden roof of the cathedral is painted with medieval scenes. Nearby Albarracín is also marvellous. Stay for a night or two en route to Valencia and the south. Unicorn or Mundi Color (as above).

**Moving Processions: Holy Week**

BOOK SOON for Holy Week (10 to 16 April) if you are going to Seville to see the great processions. But processions in unexpected places are just as interesting: in Jerez de los Caballeros in Extremadura, or Murcia, where the images on the floats were designed by the 18th-century master Francisco Salzillo. I once spent Easter in Isla Cristina on the Costa de la Luz — the processions were just as moving as Seville's, and staying there cost half the price.

Mundi Color, Magic of Spain etc, as above.

ADAM HOPKINS

• The Spanish National Tourist Office, 57 St James's Street, London W1A 1LD (071-499 6901).

## Along the cider coast

There is only one coast of mainland Spain that the discriminating green Michelin guide considers worth a journey, and it is not the Costa Blanca, the Costa del Sol, the Costa Brava, the Costa del Crime or the Costa Loma. It is, in fact, the Costa Verde, along Spain's northern frontage to the Bay of Biscay.

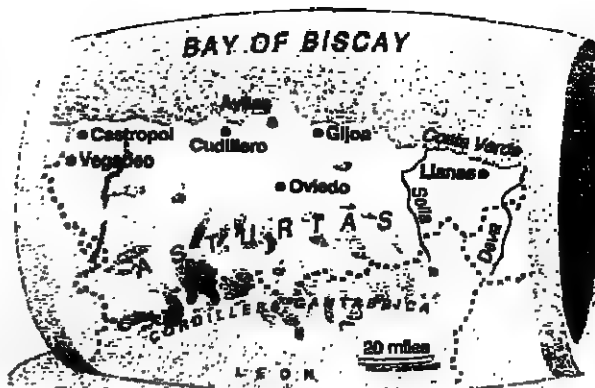
Now it is a fallacy that the rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain: it tumbles down all over Asturias — the northern province principally famous for resistance to Franco and coal mines — whose coastline the Costa Verde largely is. That, of course, is how the Costa comes to be Verde at all. Unfortunately, if you take the wrong turn (or indeed even the main road) out of Asturias airport and run into the industrial backside of the town of Aviles, your first impression will be of somewhere closely akin to Rotherham. The steel mills and dereliction are the sort of thing we are accustomed to see on despondent British television newscasts, not holiday brochures.

Choose your route to the sea more carefully, though, and you will soon cheer up. Here are meadows full of lush grass and wild flowers, bosky mountainsides, and little barns on stilts called *hórreos*, which may be converted into chalets for accommodation for locals who have escaped the harsh regime of peasant farming.

Outside country dwellings in the hills you will still see the toiling farm-folks' curious stud-soled wooden clogs (*madreras*) parked on the doorsteps, and along the coast the roads are lined not with bars and kiosks, but with blankets of salvaged seaweed laid out to dry before being used as fertiliser.

This is real, unspoilt coastal countryside, different from the rest of Spain in its flora, fauna, customs, and even in its food and drink. This is not the Spain of sunburn, of bullfights or of donkey drops, but of hiking, cycling, canoeing, climbing and mountaineering. The folk songs are not *flamencos*, but poignant plaints of lost love and drowned fishermen.

You will have quite a hard task even finding a *paseo*. The Asturian regional speciality is *pabada*, a hefty white-bean stew pumped up with pork, sausage and blood pudding.



You should, they say, not leave Asturias without trying it. Especially welcome, though, are the local trout or salmon from the mountain streams, and the line-caught fish served in the restaurants of the little fishing ports and coves.

Cider is the Asturian drink, and all the local bars are principally *sidrerías*. They are plentiful. The capital, Oviedo, despite its quiet and academic air, is said to have 400 of them.

Cider is taken very seriously indeed, and treated with all the ceremony that other parts of Spain reserve for the *corrida* or the service of sherry. Asturian cider is flat, but with a covert pétillance that the cider waiters release with an extrovert manner of service that is extraordinary to behold. The hand holding the bottle is raised as high as possible over the head. The other, holding a carefully angled glass, is held as low as possible, somewhere around the knees. Then the cider is poured in an overhead delivery intended to have the stream hit just below the rim

of the glass's lower side, so that a small quantity of cider is collected frothing in the bottom of the glass.

The "awoken" cider has then to be thrown back in one gulp, while it is still fizzy. Any that is left in the glass is customarily thrown into a spittoon or on to the floor, as a result of which the apple smell of *sidrerías* can be detected far down the street.

In our hotel in the large port town of Gijón (spelt in Asturian *Xixón*, pronounced Hee-hon), the bar of the ground-floor *sidrería* included the foundations of the city's ancient Roman walls, which have been soaking up cider dregs for centuries.

The cheese to eat with your cider is distinctive, too. It takes its name from the mountain district of Cabrales, where it is made from the milk of sheep, goats and cows combined, and stored until maturity in limestone caverns which impart a natural mould veining that results in a taste that will rock you on your heels and make the palate tingle.

We explored much of the 354km of Asturian coast, as far as the small, old and beautiful fishing and holiday town of Llanes. There is an ever-changing succession of wide beaches, small secluded coves and picturesque fishing villages. In Cudillero, when I could not understand which fish we were being offered for lunch, the chef and I solved the problem by examining the pictorial portraits which decorated the restaurant's cottagey facade. We finally decided it was monkfish, and the meal was a success.

ROBIN YOUNG

## Getting there

The author was a guest of Travelscene of Harrow, North-West London (081-427 4445), staying at the Casona de Jovellanos, Gijón, and the Hotel Los Lagos in Cangas de Onís. Travelscene's Asturian breaks, flying by Avia, scheduled flights to Asturias airport from London Stansted, start from £219 (two nights, Cangas de Onís). Two-centre holidays in the above hotels are from £339 (five nights) or £399 (seven nights).

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CARIBBEAN CRUISE: John Bryant ventures on a luxury trip where the only real hazard lies in overeating



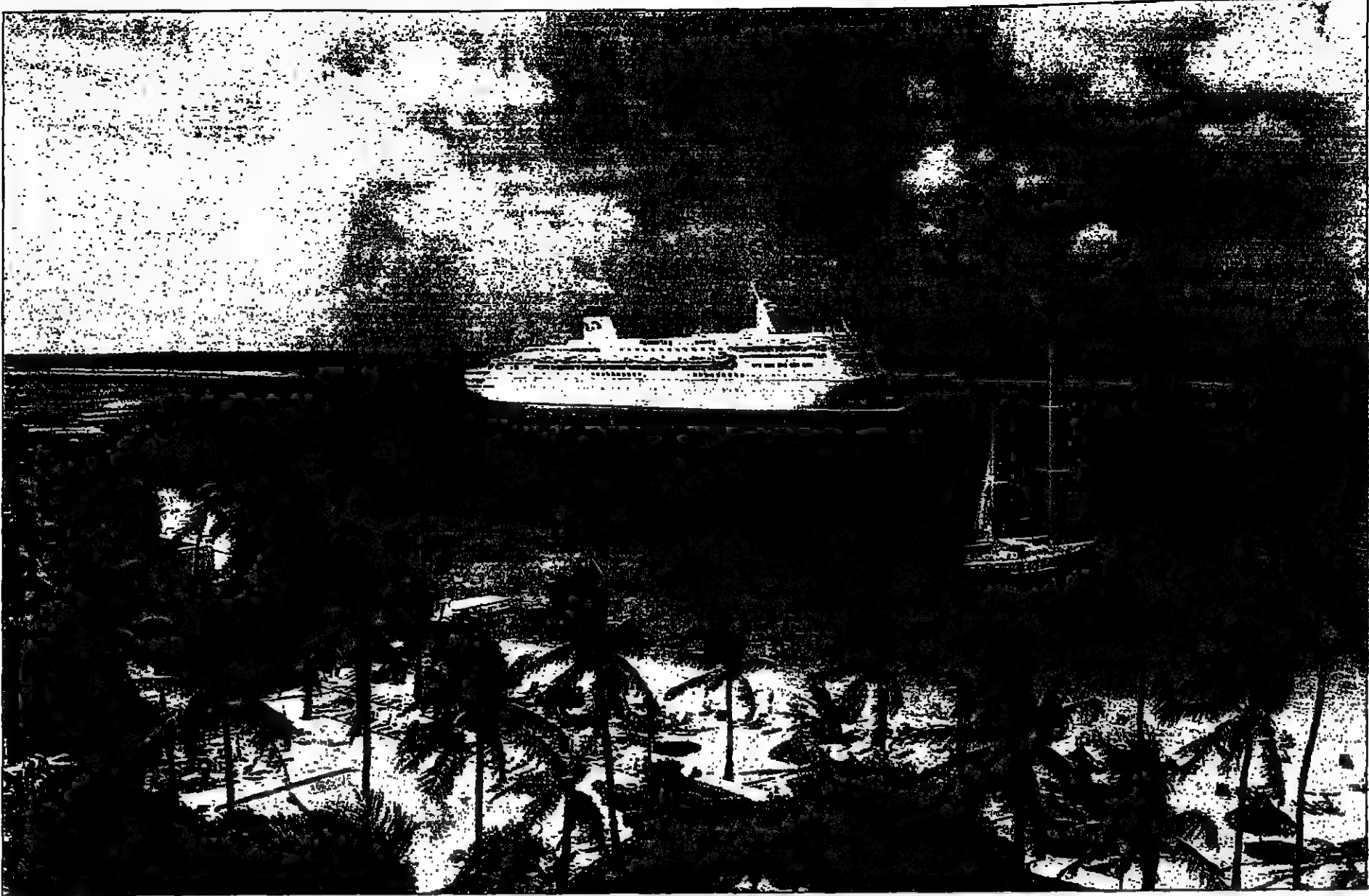
Enough food to sink a ship

Tell anybody you've just come back from a cruise these days and the floor is yours. "Was there a fire? Did it sink? Were you adrift? Was your cabin finished?"

1994 was not too kind to the cruising business. The *Achille Lauro* went down in flames off Somalia. The *Canberra* went adrift in the English Channel. And the *Q52*—putting to sea with an unfinished refit—discovered that bad publicity could be rougher than the Atlantic.

After all that, you can set out on a cruise feeling quite intrepid—nobody expects it to be plain sailing. So it came as a bit of a shock to find myself subjected to 12 days and nights of pampered luxury. Mind you, even luxury can turn out to be a risky business. I should have realised what I was in for when the immigration officer at Miami glanced at my passport and tickets and warned: "You'd better watch out... Goin' on a cruise you could put on 20 pounds, easy."

Once on the cruise ship—a gleaming white floating palace called the *Sky Princess*—I could see exactly what he meant. It wasn't just that some

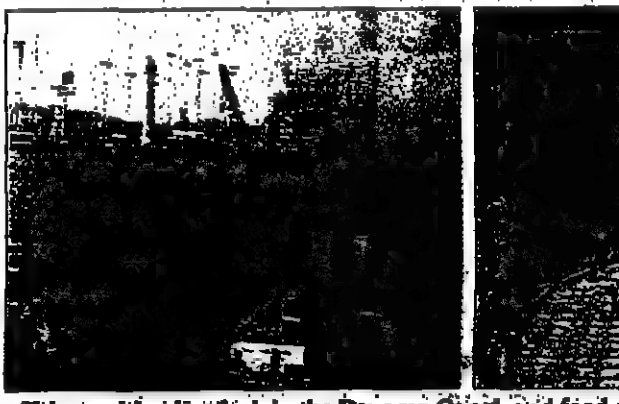


The 12-day Caribbean cruise on the *Sky Princess*, which can cater for 1,200 passengers, offers every creature comfort and a large and varied number of shore excursions

of the other passengers looked as if they'd been on a dozen or so cruises already, it was that the opportunity for the good life seemed boundless.

A glance at the ship's daily newspaper, *The Princess Patter* (printed on board and left by your bedside with liqueur chocolates each night), made me realise with wonder that you could spend just about the whole cruise eating round the clock. After Early Bird Coffee and Danish before dawn, you could have buffet breakfasts, formal breakfast, mid-morning snacks, late-morning pizza, buffet lunch, formal lunch, afternoon tea (scones, cakes, sandwiches and waiters in white gloves), dinner, and just in case you feel peckish before you turn in, a midnight buffet.

The midnight buffet had to be seen if not eaten. Tables that stretched further than the appetite could ever see groaned under the weight of an extravagant display of gastronomic artistry. Among huge joints of meat, salmon, salads, and every known variety of fruit and vegetable, there were huge ice-carvings and sugar-sculptures. In the midst of such a banquet, even the 600-glass champagne water-



Ships waiting in a lock in the Panama Canal; and food glorious food on board ship

fall that they laid on one night didn't seem too over the top.

So I knew from the start that I wasn't going to go hungry. But as a first-time cruiser I was soon to discover that there was a lot more to the ship-board life than just eating and drinking. I had taken a tropical cruise on the *Sky Princess*. It was billed as a Caribbean cruise with a difference. The difference was that this cruise takes in a terrific range of tours ashore. We had the opportunity to explore ancient Mayan ruins in Mexico's Cozumel, to trek through rainforest glimpsing toucans in Costa Rica, to follow the steps of the Conquistadors in the Colombian port of Cartagena, and to enjoy water sports in the Bahamas.

If all this wasn't enough, the *Sky Princess* also took us to one of the great modern wonders of the cruising world—the Panama Canal. Cruising through what must be the world's ultimate short cut is awe-inspiring. The idea of taking a ship as big as the *Sky Princess*—46,000 tons and room for 1,200 passengers—and lifting her 85ft above sea-level using locks hacked out of the jungle, is outrageous. Watching the ship inching through lock gates (familiar in design to anyone who's cruised on the Thames) with just feet to spare on either side, you can only marvel at the engineering dream that links the Atlantic with the Pacific.

To be honest, before I'd went cruising I wondered if I'd feel bored or cooped up on a ship, but I soon found that on a ship

you have the joy of everything and nothing to do all at the same time. As well as a surprising selection of bars, lounges, decks and swimming pools, there's an endless programme of amusements and activities that you can simply take or leave.

I found that I could leave the shopping (everything duty free in the ship's boutiques and jewels to make your mouth water), but I took a fair bit of exercise to offset all that food and drink. The ship had an excellent gym, you could play golf or even go clay pigeon shooting, and the top deck, with the best views, was marked out as a jogging track. So while my wife did her best to save the Colombian economy by cornering the market in emeralds, I did endless laps of the track watching the sunset over the Panama Canal. I totted up the mileage each day, and when I completed the marathon distance I celebrated with champagne served trackside.

Out of a tracksuit and into a dinner suit you find that it's when the sun goes down that a ship really comes alive. Dinner is always one of the highlights of the day and, although dress at sea was usually casual, there were a couple of formal nights with the men going black-tie and the women in full sail with as much jewellery as they could carry.

Just the thing for the Captain's cocktail party. The Captain, Roger Knight, and most of his officers on the *Sky Princess* were all proudly British, and while we were aboard steered the *Sky Princess* through 2,966 nautical miles without a hitch. No disasters, no fires, no unfinished refits on a cruise that left me feeling totally relaxed and with memories of some extraordinary places.

The riskiest moment in the trip for me came during one of those high-kicking, high-spirited shows that they lay on in the ship's theatre each night. As an inexperienced cruiser I had taken a seat in the front row. Suddenly a rather eye-catching hostess leapt from the stage, grabbed my hand and said: "We're looking for a volunteer." For a moment, I was looking for a lifebelt... but that's another story.

Fact file

- The author travelled as a guest of Princess Cruises (071-800 2468).
- Day One: London. Fly to Miami. Transfer to first-class hotel for overnight stay.
- Day Two: Fort Lauderdale. Embark *Sky Princess*. Sail at 5pm.
- Day Four: Cozumel (Mexico). Arrive 8am, depart 5pm.
- Day Six: Limón (Costa Rica). Arrive 9.30am, depart 6pm.
- Day Seven: Panama Canal. Cruise Gatun Lake. Arrive 7am, depart 5pm.
- Day Eight: Cartagena (Colombia). Arrive 8am, depart 5pm.
- Day 11: Princess Cays (The Bahamas). Arrive 8am, depart 12.30pm.
- Day 12: Fort Lauderdale. Arrive 7am. Disembark. Fly overnight to London.
- Day 13: London. Arrive am.
- A 12-night cruise on the *Sky Princess* between October and December 1995 costs from £1,370. Please call number above for reservations. Cruises vary slightly in detail from year to year.

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(b) A herd or collection of saddle-horses kept for remounts. "In a moment the first of the remuda came into view, trotting forward with the free grace of an unburdened horse, winding its way down the hill in our direction."

### LUGE

(c) A sledge of Swiss origin, of the bob-sleigh type. "On the ascent of the luge, Jennai flew straight up into the air and landed with an almighty crash."

Answers from page 27

IZZAT

(b) Honour, reputation, credit, prestige. 1893, Kipling, *Many Inventions*: "Thou hast done great wrong, and altogether lost thy izzat and thy reputation."

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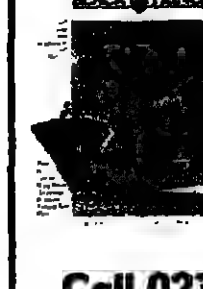
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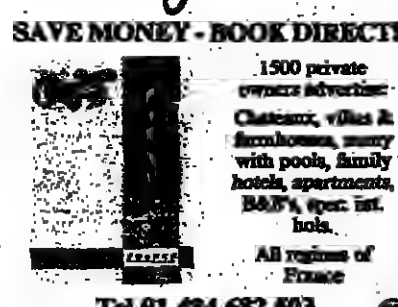
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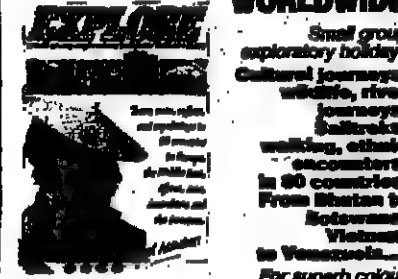
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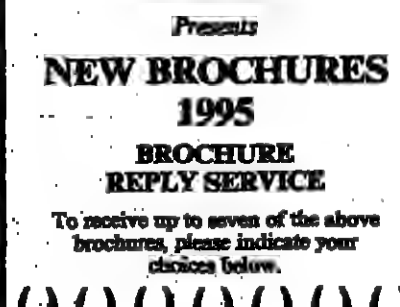
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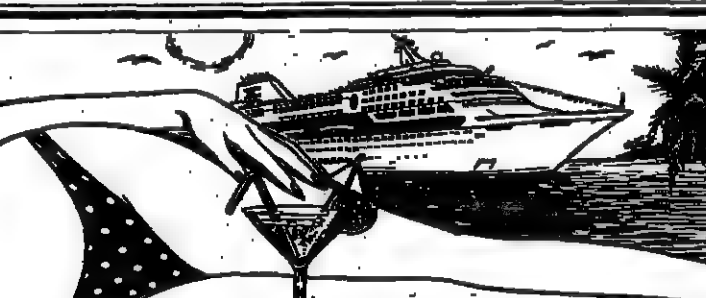
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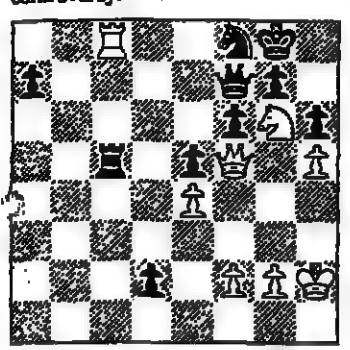
## GAMES

27

## CHESS

by Raymond Keene

FOR my first article of 1995, I return to the voluminous postbag created by reader interest in the daily Winning Move puzzles. These chessboard brainteasers first appeared in 1988, and they have transformed presentation of chess in *The Times*. Formerly, chess coverage remained very much a one-way conduit, but over the past years, chess reporting has developed into a dialogue with readers, who on occasion have unearthed finesses overturning established play and which the grandmasters and champions have overlooked.



The extraordinary position between Kengs and Gulef which I analysed on October 14 and October 29 continues to stir up controversy.

White to play.

The solution given was 1 Qe6 leaving Black defenceless, as 1... Qe6 is met by 2 Rxd8 and mate next move. 1... Rxd8 instead runs into 2 Ne7+ Kh7 3 Qd7 Ne6 4 Qxd5 Qe5, again mating.

Mr R.N. Bader of London SE18 and R.F. Coates of Market Rasen suggested that by playing 1... Rxd8 2 Ne7+ and now 2... Kh8 3 Qd7 Ne6 4 Qxd5 Rb8, Black can draw, as White has nothing better than perpetual check with 5 Ng6+ Kh7 6 Nf8+ Kh8 (not 6... Rxd8 7 Qd7) 7 Ng6+ with a draw.

This is a most ingenious try. However, by refining his play with 1 Qe6 Rxd8 2 Ne7+ Kh7 3 Qd7 Ne6 and now 4 Nf8, White will emerge with an extra piece, e.g. 4... d1Q 5 Qxd5 Qxh5 6 Qh3.

The final suggestion is from

Bruce Heather of Durham: 1 Qe6 Rxd8 2 Ne7+ Kh8 3 Qd7 Nd7. However, this is refuted by 4 Ng6+ and 5 Qxd7.

Stewart Reuben of Twickenham is a well known chess organiser, but in the recent Menchik memorial tournament in Maidstone he achieved the distinction of drawing with the 1951 world championship challenger David Bronstein of Moscow.

Stewart has submitted the following position from one of his earlier games.



C.H.O.D. Alexander, the leading British master of his day, chess columnist of *The Sunday Times* and captain of the English Olympic team on many of the occasions on which I participated, thought White could draw this position with 1 c6 b3 2 c7 Bxb3 3 c8 Bxb3 4 Bb7 5 Kgl. However, Stewart had noticed that Black could now win with 5... Bxb4 6 c8/Q: Kgl, and although White has queened first with check, Black cannot be prevented from promoting next move. However, as a new contribution to the theory of this position, why not try 3 Bf1 when White can continue the struggle. For instance if 3... Bd1, then 4 c8/Q+, or 3... Bb7 4 Bd1. Finally, the beautiful point of the variation is revealed after 3 Bf1 b2 4 Bb3! and if 4... Bxd3 5 c8/Q: Kgl, White can now win with 6 Qc3+ followed by Qxb2.

Next week I will give the answers to the Christmas Eve quiz, and the full list of winners' names.

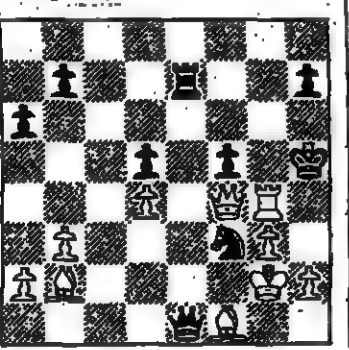
## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene  
This position is from the game Horwitz - Staunton, London 1846. Should Black play 1... bxc4 or does he have something stronger?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Rg7+

Last week's winners: A Smith, B. Smith, Humberston; F.J. Beale, Royston; H. H. McHugh, South Ruislip; Middlesex.



## PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon on the right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestions, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon Caption 39, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, January 11.



Police and quick-witted disciplinarian (to officer, with train to catch, attempting to leave hospital five minutes before the permitted time). "Mr. Surgeon, please: are you coming?" Mr. Surgeon: "Hurry—hurry—hurry! I'm late!"



Police: "You'll have to join the queue for this ship, madam." Woman: "It's all right officer. You can let me through—I'm a plumber!"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Mr R. Trowbridge of Worcester Park, Surrey.

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

## IZZAT

- a. A Hindu god
- b. Honour
- c. An evergreen

## LUGE

- a. A German pistol
- b. An expensive scarf
- c. A small sledge

## POUSADA

- a. A Portuguese inn
- b. A round jug
- c. A feather duvet

## REMUDA

- a. A relaxant
- b. A herd of horses
- c. A winemaker

Answers on page 20

## COMPUTER GAMES

DO CD-ROMS at £5 a time sound too good to be true? From Ocean's budget label Kix, the "CD-Rom Interactive Collection Volume 1" promises ten DOS and Windows discs for £49.99.

The first three discs are reference works "The Animals", "The Software Toolworks World Atlas" and "The Interactive Space Encyclopedia". The first has a large array of sounds and colour stills covering much of the animal kingdom but overall is fairly tame; the next is a cracking apology for an animated atlas, but the space disc is good, bursting with authentic footage and astronomical atmosphere.

Of the other non-fiction titles, "Print & Paint Power" is a superb colour design and print package for everything from business cards to banners, while the Midi Music collection includes video hits by favourites Madonna, Phil Collins, Abba and Michael Jackson.

On the sporting front, there is the superior "World Cup USA 94" football game, the "Winter Olympics" based on last year's events at Lillehammer which includes an exquisite multimedia extravaganza of Norway, and the early golf classic "Links". Four other lesser games

are included on one disc — "Out Run" car racing, "James Pond 2" platform, helicopter combat sim "Thunderhawk" and "Curse of Enchantia", a neatly rounded run-around point-and-click adventure.



The biggest dud in the collection is the irritating "Johnny Castaway" screen-saver for Windows. There are a total of 16 titles on the ten discs. The question is how many of these discs would you want if you could pick and mix.

Now two for the Super Nintendo Entertainment System (SNES). In Konami's "The Adventures of Batman and Robin", the Caped Crusader must punch, knock-out gas and grapple-hook his way through Gotham's arch villains and the leader of the dirty pack, the Joker. The alleyway and warehouse settings are rich and dark and the game plays smoothly.

"Secret of Mana" is one to avoid. The opening sequence alone is so long-winded it gives you heart-

burn. This is a puzzle-solving escape game which takes an overhead viewpoint. The gameplay, like the graphics, is pasty.

Now for a cheat for anyone playing the part of a United Nations pilot in Digital Image Design's "TFX". If you want all the ammunition, rockets and aluminium strips you can carry, during flight press Shift and D together. At a stroke you should find more than enough supplies to see off most problems you'll encounter on your various Nato missions.

Finally, there is no winner of the Christmas Quiz which appeared on Christmas Eve. However, we will award a jargonome of Moët & Chandon champagne to whoever can come up with the wildest limerick to do with computers or computer games.

Send your entry on a postcard — including your name, age, address and telephone number — to arrive no later than Wednesday, January 11, 1995. Address your entry to: Computer Limerick, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Normal Times competition rules apply.

TIM WAPSHOTT

## BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

HERE is the solution to the competition that appeared on Christmas Eve. The answers to questions 1 and 3 are as follows, 2 and 4 will be published next week, along with the names of the winners. The answer to question 5 will appear on Saturday, January 21.

All the bidding problems concerned rubber bridge, with Stayman and Blackwood the only conventions allowed.

1. In this problem you were asked what you would bid after your partner had opened a 12-14 No-trump at love-all. Your hand was:

♠A843 ♥AJS ♣AJ93 ♦A10

West's problem is whether to try for a slam. In general it is correct to be in a slam which has more than a 50 per cent chance of success. When one of the best players at TGR's club held the West hand he concocted this inelegant sequence:

W	E
2♣	2♥
5♣	6♣
Pass	

Now it is true there might be a good slam on the combined cards. Three possible East hands are put opposite the West hand in the diagram below.

West	East	East	East
♠A843	K752	Q752	J752
♥AJS	K4	K4	Q4
♣AJ93	KQ5	KQ5	KQ5
♦A10	K873	KJ87	KQ82

When East holds hand (1) Six Spades is a good contract, needing little more than finding the outstanding spades 3-2, about a 68 per cent chance. In the event East held hand (2), which made the slam against the odds — besides the trumps 3-2 declarer has to find North with the king of spades. Perhaps East should not have bid Six Spades. But he was as unsure of the meaning of Five Spades as West was, and that was the first reason West should not have tried Two Clubs. There are no decent mechanisms at rubber bridge for finding out exact cards. The second reason for not going slammings is that East might have held hand (3) — of course he would have passed Five Spades, but even that could have been too high.

The third and most crucial point, with which I hoped to trap the duplicate players who answered the quiz, is that West has 150 Honours in No-Trumps. This dramatically shifts the odds. I estimate a non-vulnerable 3NT with an overtrick or two and 150 honours to be worth about 600 total points. Six Spades is worth 980 points, so if the slam either made or went one down it would have to have over a 60 per cent chance of success to be worth bidding. Add in the chances of going down at the five level, and it is clear that West should take the money in 3NT.

Marks: 3NT, 10 points; 4NT, 2 points (at least you'll have the

honours if you go off); all others, 0. 3. As West you held:

♠A ♥A8732 ♦8874 ♣853

South dealt and the simple auction was South One Spade, North Seven Spades. What should you lead? (10 marks)

There is an "unlucky expert" lead on this hand, a low heart. That is what I led when given the hand as a problem. My thought process was: North must have a hand with a good side suit of either diamonds or clubs, with first round control of the other suits (and hence a void heart). Where a low heart might gain is if the declarer has to ruff prematurely, or where he has more than one line of play — the lead of the low heart would apparently mark the ace with East, the leader's partner. This is the sort of layout I had in mind:

♠	♥	♦	♣
AK83			
AQ83			
AQJ97			
	N		
W	E		
♠A8732	♠J108		
♥874	♥10855		
♦853	♦J1052		
	♣K10		
	♣K752		
	♣KQJ4		
	♣K		
	♣42		

On a non-heart lead the declarer might well decide to discard his clubs on the ace and queen of diamonds. Then if after ace and another club the suit has not behaved the declarer may still be able to make the contract by taking a ruffing finesse in hearts.

However on a low heart lead, if the declarer places the ace of hearts with East, it is best simply to draw trumps and take the club finesse. The result is one down.

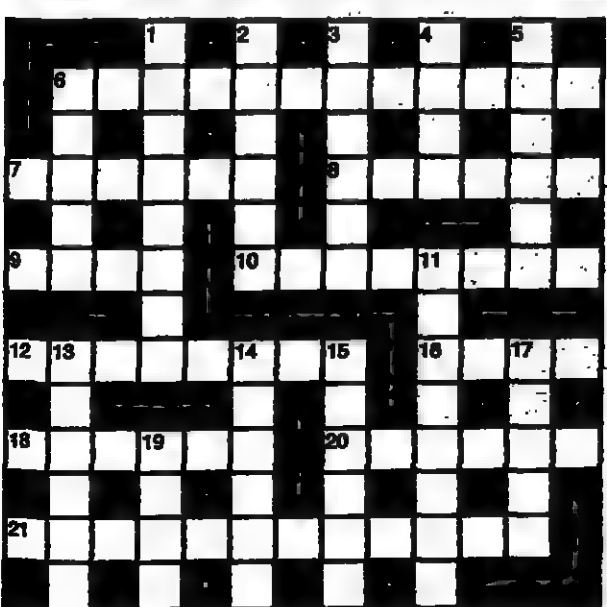
So much for creative vision — when the hand occurred at TGR's, the actual layout was:

♠	♥	♦	♣
AQ832			
85			
AKQ1084			
	N		
W	E		
♠A8732	♠97		
♥874	♥QJ108		
♦853	♦QJ1032		
	♣J7		
	♣KJ1085		
	♣K4		
	♣AK85		
	♣82		

In practice the West player led the nine of diamonds, and the contract made. Although North's Seven Spade is clearly a speculative shot, it has a good deal going for it. In particular, from North's point of view Six Spades might not make against a heart lead. A slower bidding approach may pin-point that lead. So this gives another way for an immediate Seven Spades to gain.

I gave 10 marks for the practical and effective lead of the ace of hearts; and 5 points to the imaginative lead of a low heart. All others 0.

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 363

- ACROSS
- 6 Surety for court appearance (12)
  - 7 Spain and Portugal (6)
  - 8 Very ancient (3-3)
  - 9 On a single occasion (4)
  - 10 Ring in (tuneless) bath (8)
  - 12 Insect, spotted red wings (8)
  - 16 Mistake (4)
  - 18 Sacred Egyptian beetle (6)
  - 20 Call (to duty) (6)
  - 21 Efficient (12)
- DOWN
- 1 Only just, not quite (8)
  - 2 Flourished (6)
  - 3 Reptile: Cornish promontory (7)
  - 4 Windmill blade (4)
  - 5 Of the eyes (6)
  - 6 Garden bird, killed by sparrow (5)
  - 11 Dairy girl (8)
  - 13 (Of money) increase with interest (6)
  - 14 Innate: of insufficient genetic variety (6)
  - 15 No-longer-employed state (6)
  - 17 Coast (5)
  - 19 Financial or other collapse (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 362

ACROSS: 1 Negligence 5 Toss 8 Sting 9 Brine 11 Rod 12 Overgrown 13 Modesty 15 Joseph 16 Pariah 19 Tag 20 Dracma 21 Nurse 22 Late 23 Sensible

DOWN: 1 Nostrum 2 Guild 3 In good faith 4 Emblem 6 Outcome 7 Sheen 10 In good hands 14 Detract 16 Hygiene 17 Arcade 18 Bidal 19 Throb

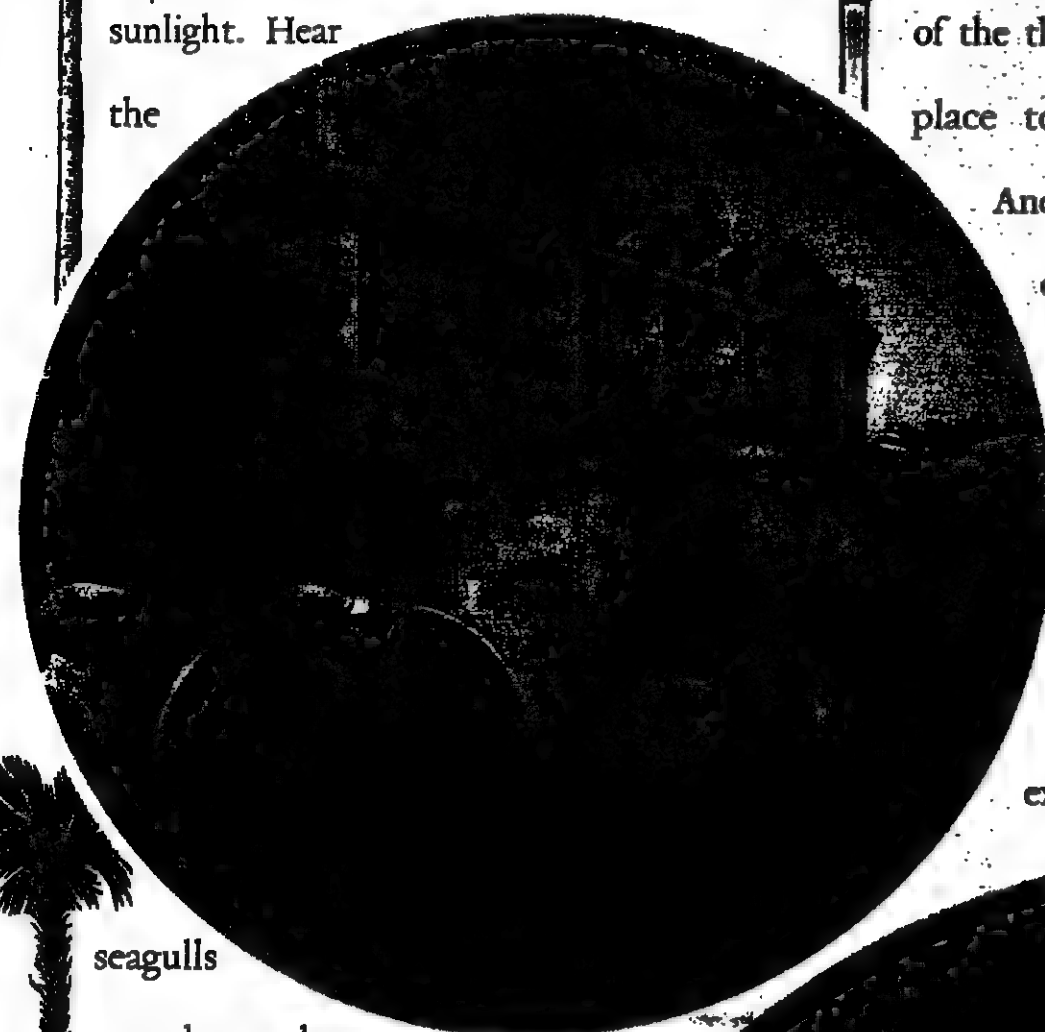
CROSSWORD BOOKS: *The Times Concise Crosswords* (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each, Books 3, 4, 5 & 6 £4.50 each, Book 7 £4.50 each, Book 8 £4.50 each, Book 9 £4.50 each, Book 10 £4.50 each, Book 11 £4.50 each, Book 12 £4.50 each, Book 13 £4.50 each, Book 14 £4.50 each, Book 15 £4.50 each, Book 16 £4.50 each, Book 17 £4.50 each, Book 18 £4.50 each, Book 19 £4.50 each, Book 20 £4.50 each, Book 21 £4.50 each, Book 22 £4.50 each, Book 23 £4.50 each, Book 24 £4.50 each, Book 25 £4.50 each, Book 26 £4.50 each, Book 27 £4.50 each, Book 28 £4.50 each, Book 29 £4.50 each, Book 30 £4.50 each, Book 31 £4.50 each, Book 32 £4.50 each, Book 33 £4.50 each, Book 34 £4.50 each, Book 35 £4.50 each, Book 36 £4.50 each, Book 37 £4.50 each, Book 38 £4.50 each, Book 39 £4.50 each, Book 40 £4.50 each, Book 41 £4.50 each, Book 42 £4.50 each, Book 43 £4.50 each, Book 44 £4.50 each, Book 45 £4.50 each, Book 46 £4.50 each, Book 47 £4.50 each, Book 48 £4.50 each, Book 49 £4.50 each, Book 50 £4.50 each, Book 51 £4.50 each, 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سكنيا عن الامم

Morning check-out from a Victorian beach hotel, Florida, lunchtime enchiladas at the Quetzalcoatl Pyramid, Mexico, cold Mai Tai on a white sand Polynesian beach after lunch. It could only be one place.

'Thank you sir, have a nice day now?' A warm smile sends you on your way. Step outside, blinking into the bright, morning sunlight. Hear the



seagulls screech a welcome.

Later, spice. Chilli sauce on the enchiladas. Love it. Love the sombreros too fellas. Hey! Viva Mexico!

Afternoon heat. The waiter's welcome arrival. A long, cool drink interrupts your reverie. Spread your toes in clean, powder-fine, white sand.

Who'd believe that you could do all this in just one day?

You'll find it all at Walt Disney World Resort, Florida. It's like nowhere else on earth. Some of the most wonderful holiday experiences in the world await you within its forty-three square miles.

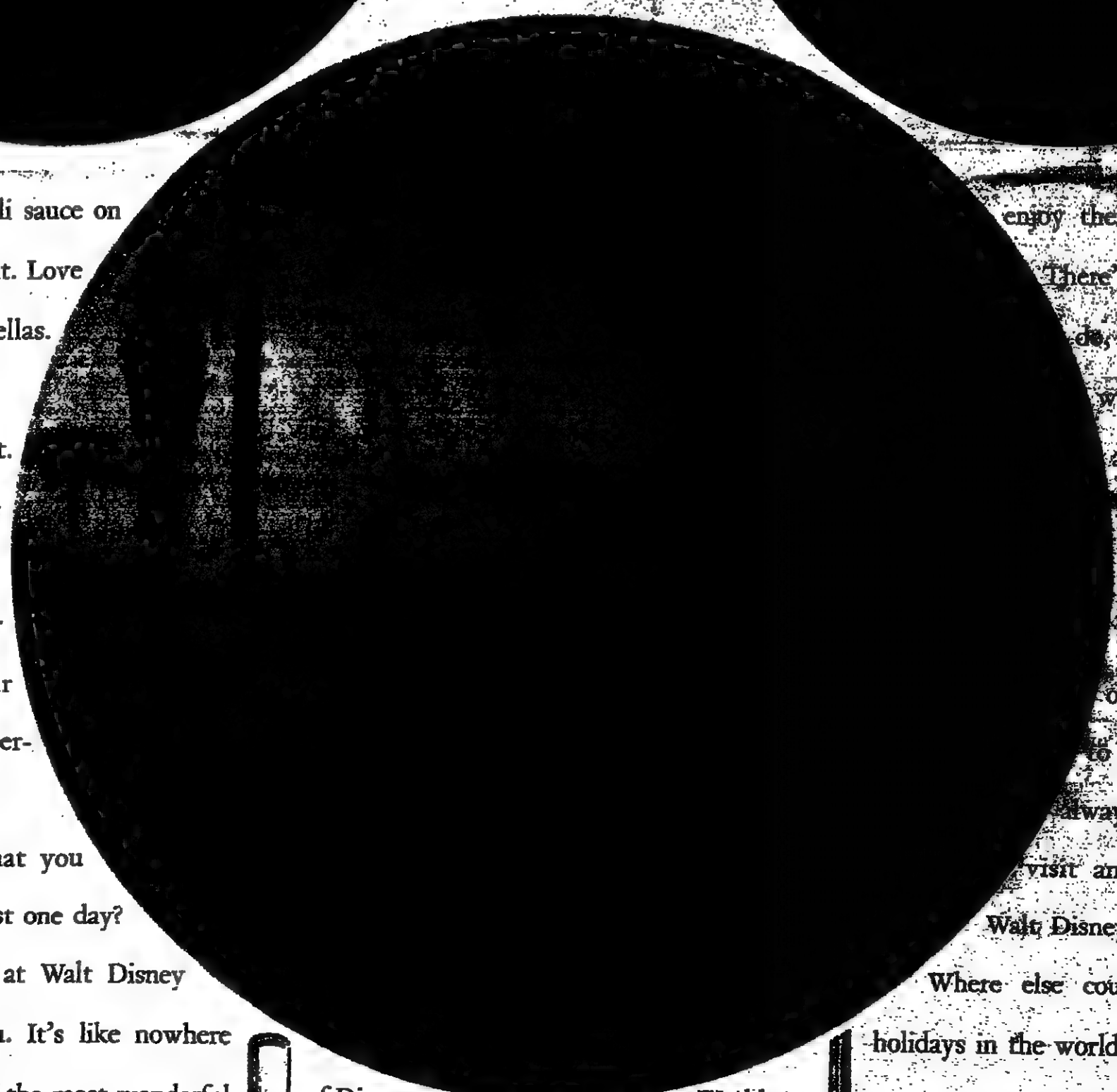


There are 23 remarkable Disney hotels that are like no others. Some have beautiful, white sand beaches like Disney's



Polynesian pictured and all are tailored to a special theme, like Disney's Grand Floridian pictured. The hotels are within easy reach of the three theme parks and are the ideal place to relax after a fun-packed day.

And there's a Disney hotel for every budget, starting at only £45 per family room, per night for Disney's All Star resort. Stay at a select Disney hotel and you experience the real magic

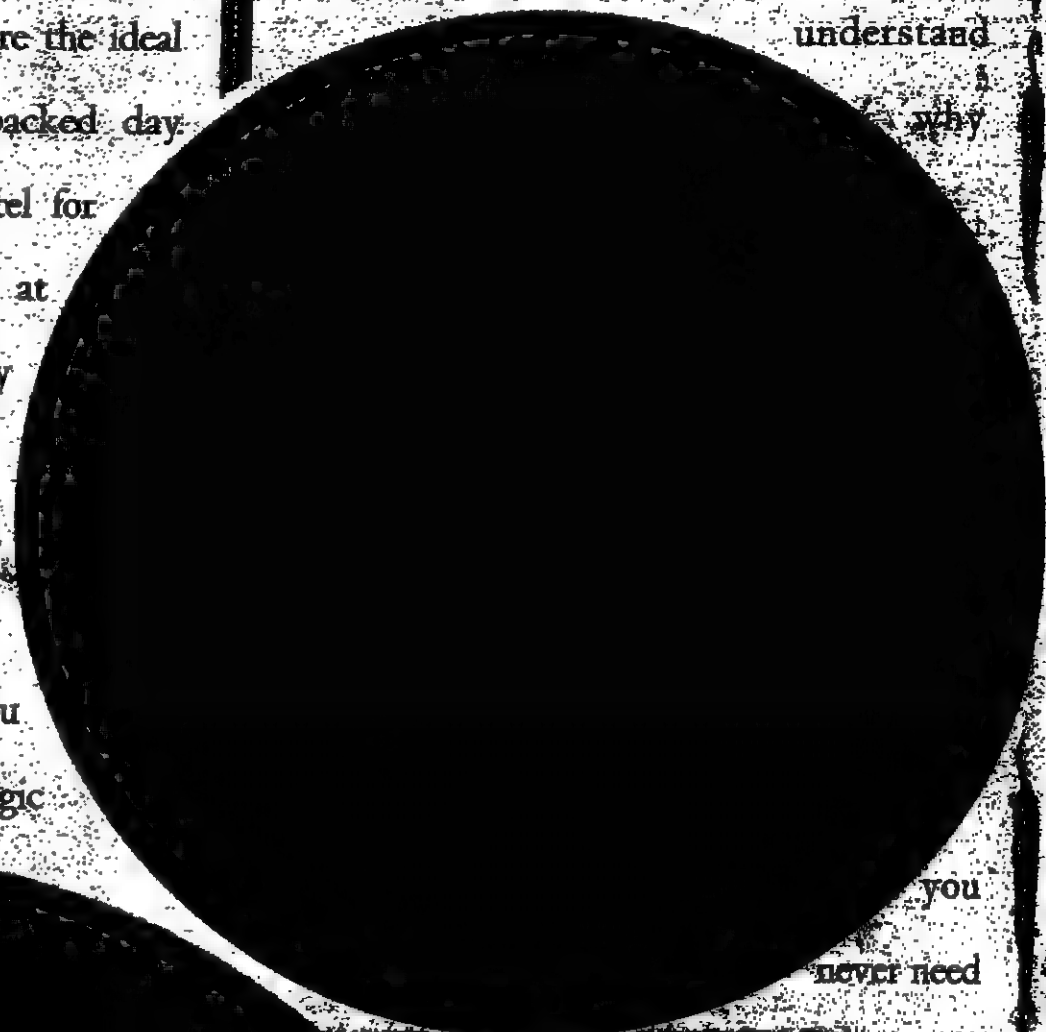


of Disney World at first hand. Enjoy special benefits like access to the parks an hour early, free transport around the resort, unique themed baby sitting facilities and a host of other services.

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A CHANNEL HOPPER'S GUIDE TO THE WEEK'S TV AND RADIO

SEVEN DAYS TV

10-23

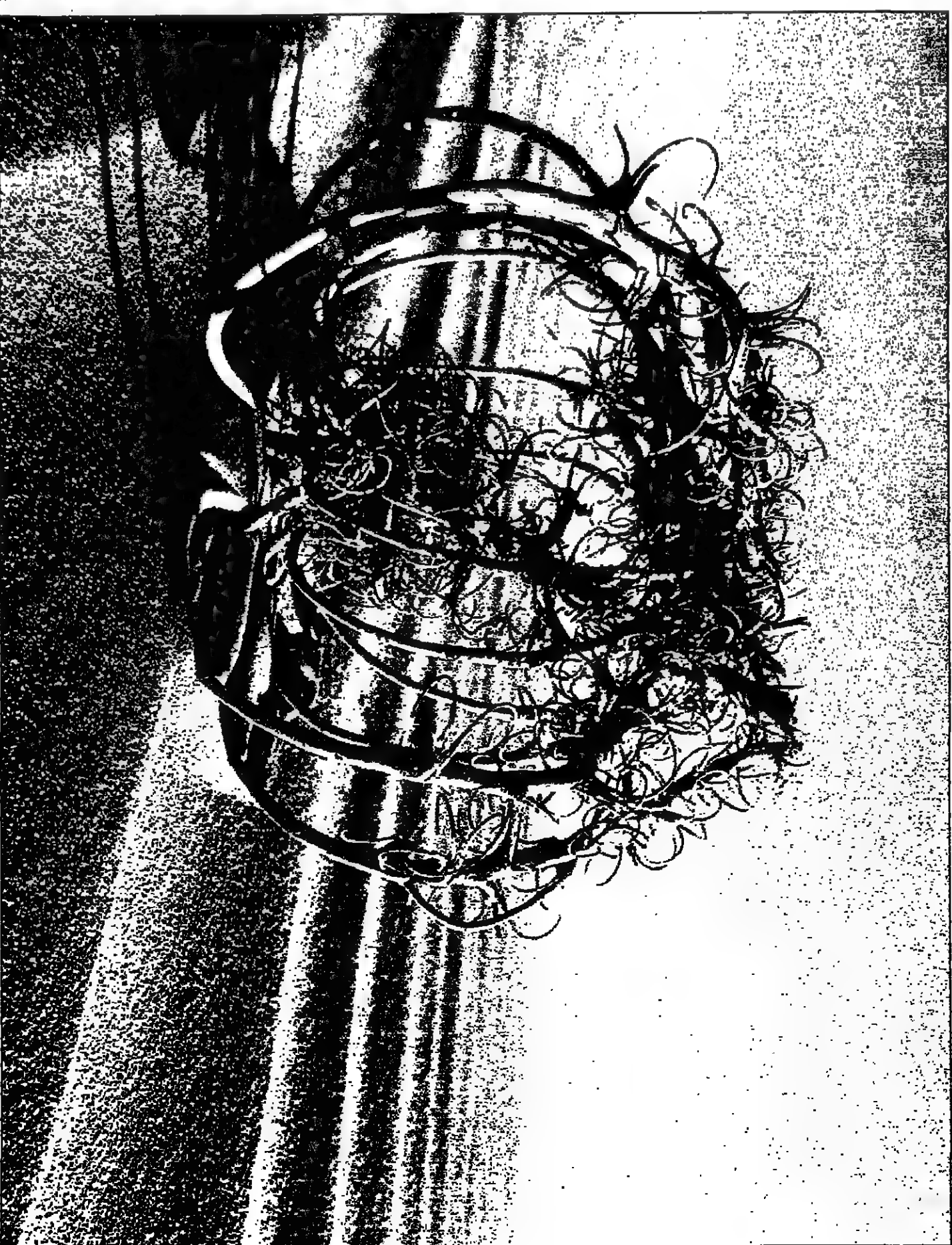
SEVEN DAYS RADIO

24-27

THE TIMES

# VISION

SATURDAY 7 - FRIDAY 13 JANUARY 1995



NATURE

DOCUMENTARY

SPORT

- 3 Filming the private life of plants
- 5 United Nations: a soldier's tale
- 6 Radio 5 recalls football's giant killers







## TUESDAY JANUARY 10

## RADIO 1

6.55 **Weather** 7.00 **On Air** Piersa (Piersa & Piersa) 7.15 **News** 7.30 **Country** 7.45 **Pop** 8.00 **Classical** 8.15 **Children's** 8.30 **World** 8.45 **Science** 9.00 **Health** 9.15 **Arts** 9.30 **Religion** 9.45 **Philosophy** 10.00 **History** 10.15 **Geography** 10.30 **Law** 10.45 **Politics** 11.00 **Economics** 11.15 **Social** 11.30 **Environment** 11.45 **Technology** 12.00 **Space** 12.15 **Transport** 12.30 **Energy** 12.45 **Food** 1.00 **Drink** 1.15 **Travel** 1.30 **Weather** 1.45 **On Air** Piersa (Piersa & Piersa) 1.55 **News** 2.10 **Country** 2.25 **Pop** 2.40 **Classical** 2.55 **Children's** 3.10 **World** 3.25 **Science** 3.40 **Health** 3.55 **Arts** 4.10 **Religion** 4.25 **Philosophy** 4.40 **History** 4.55 **Geography** 5.10 **Law** 5.25 **Politics** 5.40 **Economics** 5.55 **Social** 6.10 **Environment** 6.25 **Technology** 6.40 **Space** 6.55 **Transport** 7.10 **Energy** 7.30 **Food** 7.45 **Drink** 8.00 **Travel** 8.15 **Weather** 8.30 **On 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## TIMES EXPERTS PREVIEW THE WEEK OF VIEWING

## Painting portraits



ARTS  
RICHARD MORRISON

**Schubert: the composer's final months analysed (C 4)**

Director who met a violent end in 1828, Schubert has been hailed as the greatest of composers. But his final months, analysed in this week's *Portrait of a Composer*, are a story of tragedy and triumph.

Another musical genius who died tragically young is the subject of next Thursday's *Portrait of a Composer*. Remembered for his beautiful songs, Schubert's final months are a story of tragedy and triumph.

Two more lives of very different men are profiled in this week's *Portrait of a Composer*. Remembered for his beautiful songs, Schubert's final months are a story of tragedy and triumph.

## Every one's a classic

SCIENCE  
NIGEL HAWKES

BBC's new series of the week is *Life of Plants* (Wednesday, 8.30pm). It's a series of feature, page 3. Regular plugs have let us know in any doubt that this was about to bloom, though I want to watch ads I prefer real ones. The first programme takes us to the Mediterranean to see how plants place to place.

Everything is a classic these days (see David's column). It's no surprise that Channel 4 has a new series of classic films. *Classics* (Friday, 10.30pm) is a series of feature, page 3. Regular plugs have let us know in any doubt that this was about to bloom, though I want to watch ads I prefer real ones. The first programme takes us to the Mediterranean to see how plants place to place.

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## Could be verse



SOAPS  
JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

THANKS to the season of goodwill is over and the denizens of Albert Square can get back to their usual backstabbing. This week in *EastEnders* (BBC 1, Monday, 8.30pm), there's a bit of trouble down at the pub as Steve tries to win back his wife from a man who's been cheating on him.

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## Like another cup?

SPORT  
LOUISE TAYLOR

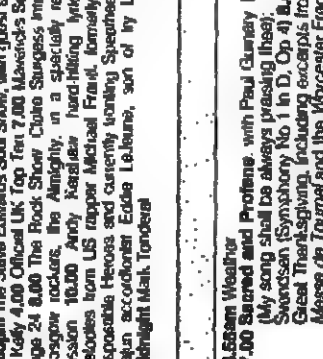
THE road to Wembley takes another twist this weekend with the third round of the FA Cup. One of the most exciting chapters in the history of the tournament is the 1948-49 season, when the cup was won by a team of underdogs.

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## SUNDAY JANUARY 8



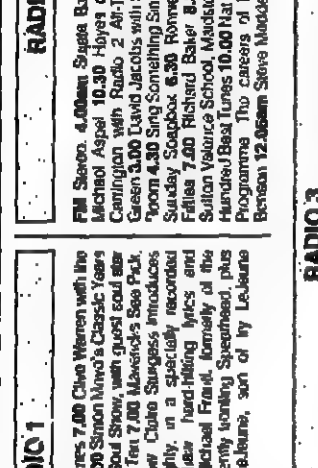
RADIO 2

FM Stereo 4.00am: *John Peel's Sunday Morning* (BBC 2). 6.00am: *Breakfast* (BBC 2). 7.00am: *News* (BBC 2). 8.00am: *Radio 2 Breakfast* (BBC 2). 9.00am: *News* (BBC 2). 10.00am: *Radio 2 Breakfast* (BBC 2). 11.00am: *News* (BBC 2). 12.00pm: *Radio 2 Breakfast* (BBC 2). 1.00pm: *News* (BBC 2). 2.00pm: *Radio 2 Breakfast* (BBC 2). 3.00pm: *News* (BBC 2). 4.00pm: *Radio 2 Breakfast* (BBC 2). 5.00pm: *News* (BBC 2). 6.00pm: *Radio 2 Breakfast* (BBC 2). 7.00pm: *News* (BBC 2). 8.00pm: *Radio 2 Breakfast* (BBC 2). 9.00pm: *News* (BBC 2). 10.00pm: *Radio 2 Breakfast* (BBC 2). 11.00pm: *News* (BBC 2). 12.00am: *Radio 2 Breakfast* (BBC 2).

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## SUNDAY JANUARY 8



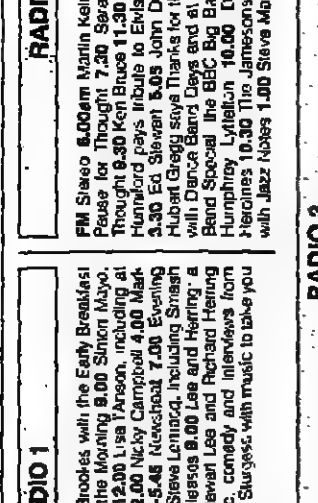
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## MONDAY JANUARY 9



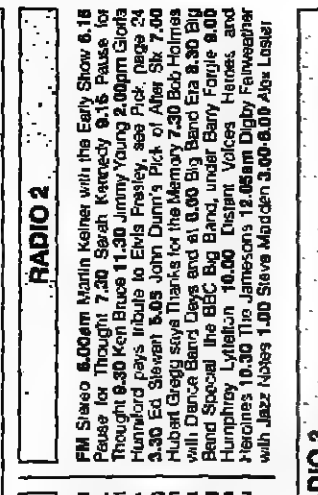
RADIO 1

FM Stereo 4.00am: *John Peel's Sunday Morning* (BBC 2). 6.00am: *Breakfast* (BBC 2). 7.00am: *News* (BBC 2). 8.00am: *Radio 1 Breakfast* (BBC 1). 9.00am: *News* (BBC 1). 10.00am: *Radio 1 Breakfast* (BBC 1). 11.00am: *News* (BBC 1). 12.00pm: *Radio 1 Breakfast* (BBC 1). 1.00pm: *News* (BBC 1). 2.00pm: *Radio 1 Breakfast* (BBC 1). 3.00pm: *News* (BBC 1). 4.00pm: *Radio 1 Breakfast* (BBC 1). 5.00pm: *News* (BBC 1). 6.00pm: *Radio 1 Breakfast* (BBC 1). 7.00pm: *News* (BBC 1). 8.00pm: *Radio 1 Breakfast* (BBC 1). 9.00pm: *News* (BBC 1). 10.00pm: *Radio 1 Breakfast* (BBC 1). 11.00pm: *News* (BBC 1). 12.00am: *Radio 1 Breakfast* (BBC 1).

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## MONDAY JANUARY 9



RADIO 2

FM Stereo 4.00am: *John Peel's Sunday Morning* (BBC 2). 6.00am: *Breakfast* (BBC 2). 7.00am: *News* (BBC 2). 8.00am: *Radio 2 Breakfast* (BBC 2). 9.00am: *News* (BBC 2). 10.00am: *Radio 2 Breakfast* (BBC 2). 11.00am: *News* (BBC 2). 12.00pm: *Radio 2 Breakfast* (BBC 2). 1.00pm: *News* (BBC 2). 2.00pm: *Radio 2 Breakfast* (BBC 2). 3.00pm: *News* (BBC 2). 4.00pm: *Radio 2 Breakfast* (BBC 2). 5.00pm: *News* (BBC 2). 6.00pm: *Radio 2 Breakfast* (BBC 2). 7.00pm: *News* (BBC 2). 8.00pm: *Radio 2 Breakfast* (BBC 2). 9.00pm: *News* (BBC 2). 10.00pm: *Radio 2 Breakfast* (BBC 2). 11.00pm: *News* (BBC 2). 12.00am: *Radio 2 Breakfast* (BBC 2).

Another musical genius who died tragically young is the subject of next Thursday's *Portrait of a Composer*. Remembered for his beautiful songs, Schubert's final months are a story of tragedy and triumph.

Everything is a classic these days (see David's column). It's no surprise that Channel 4 has a new series of classic films. *Classics* (Friday, 10.30pm) is a series of feature, page 3. Regular plugs have let us know in any doubt that this was about to bloom, though I want to watch ads I prefer real ones. The first programme takes us to the Mediterranean to see how plants place to place.



**Hattersley, Hill and co**

# Hattersley, Hill and co

Ben. Concretely, 1995, comedian Roy Hattersley.

*The Bear Tapes* was a series that won many plaudits last year, and rightly so, even if Bear's lapses into pomposity tended to jar. The strength of the bear series, however, was that it used tapes recorded contemporaneously linked with a contemporary sketch by Bear. Who Guess Home Radio 4, weekly from Monday 8 o'clock) is entirely more susceptible, and therefore more susceptible, to the alchemist of filmstrip. But Hattersley, invariably a media figure as much as a politician, writes well and has a keen sense of perspective about the cultural as opposed to the perceived importance of politics.

In the first programme he talks about his introduction to politics in Stouffville in the age of 11, when he resisted his

ship he did not die reportedly have breakfast with the Czarman to kiss and make up but he did go up to Schumacher and say: "Well done... you bugger."

This is what passes for shock-horror in modern writing, an incredibly closed world, in

Danayon III: his choice of music in *Celebrity Choice* (Sunday, Classic FM) includes Rachmaninov, Rossini

row, Sunday, 7pm), the first part of which not only examines the reasons for Treacy's success but, more interestingly, attempts to discover why he changed from being a great rock 'n' roll singer into Las Vegas crooner.

Radio 2 has also sent



party leaders. They ran out of steel bullets after a few hours and awaited a new batch from headquarters.

These proved to be different from the first batch, using Jane, the glamorous and frequently disarming figure from the *Daily Mirror* strip cartoon, to make its political point. This outraged the local Labour agent and the boy Harry Hattersley was sent home. It being quite wrong for a boy of my age to handle such a complicated machine.

My intended speech is the making of the series, which simply works along. Hattersley is of course a king of anacronism, which is only to be expected from a man who is never knowingly under-  
handed.

If Hattersley is a real personality, what are we to make of Damon Hill? If so many people find politics boring but politicians don't

created as if it had four letters.

intended as if it had four letters.

plish, where she broadcasts from Grandland, the President of the

maison. (Monday, 2pm)

Grandland is second only to the White House in American list of most popular tourist attractions, making it perhaps the only list on which saxophone player out-earcotes singer. Only in America.

At this time of year nudist bunnies a whole heap of nudist series, some of them meeting the return of old series. In the

new group, The *Modern* called *The Great Secret* (Monday, Radio 4, 7.45pm) in which the writer Mike Washburn has created a fictional journalist who, like LB

became president on the death of Johnson in the light between the Congressional Johnson faction and the Kennedy clan. This is a fascinating tale, and much aired in public because of the conversational

A couple of years ago, in the context of a piece on Marshall, I asked six people at the very top of Formula One what the prize money was for winning a race: none would tell me.

**Peter**

**Barnard**

**recommends**



multa. One more racing so exciting while the drivers are endlessly lively.

Hill turns up on Classic FM interviewed by Paul Catterall in his series *Celebrity Choice* (tomorrow, Sunday, midday). Hill is touted as the successor to Nigel Mansell, the affections of British fans, and our two horses certainly appear to have yielded the same respect for a champion by-pass.

Hill is slightly fiercer than Mansell, telling Catterall that after the stunt with Michael Schumacher, that probably cost Hill the world champion-

But at least Hill has decent taste in music - Bachman, Johnson, Mozart, Rossini - which brings welcome relief from the blandness between the records.

And then there is Elvis Presley, a man still frequently spotted by over-eager imitators working as a waiter, or a car park attendant in spite of his death in 1977.

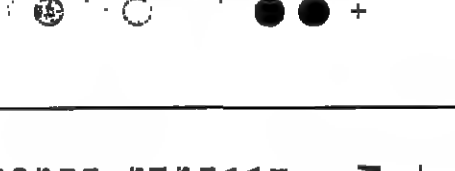
It is hardly surprising that, happily, Presley was born 60 years ago and Raddies 1 and 2 give the pick of the bunch.

The rest of the bunch should be a new series called *Mavericks* (Radio 1, tomorrow).

House years, death with part two on Monday week.

In lighter vein (as it were), saying good-bye is a new series comedy drama *If You're So Clever, Why Aren't You Rich?* (Radio 4, Thursday, 6.00pm) which is about three friends in their mid-thirties who have gone from being 'tall of potential' to 'mighty the success' by Paul/Simon and Richard/Turner, very largely collaborated for relatively minor success, e.g. *A Nice Day at the Office*, *Yes*, *A Nice Day at the Office*. That is sharply written and produced in a way that makes it miss to get a better reception

**RADIO 1:** FM 97.6/98.8, RADIO 2: FM 89.8-90.2, RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4: FM 92.4-93.8, RADIO 5: FM 93.8-95.2, RADIO 6: FM 95.2-96.6, RADIO 7: FM 96.6-98.0, RADIO 8: FM 98.0-99.4, RADIO 9: FM 99.4-100.8, RADIO 10: FM 100.8-102.2, RADIO 11: FM 102.2-103.6, RADIO 12: FM 103.6-105.0, RADIO 13: FM 105.0-106.4, RADIO 14: FM 106.4-107.8, RADIO 15: FM 107.8-109.2, RADIO 16: FM 109.2-110.6, RADIO 17: FM 110.6-112.0, RADIO 18: FM 112.0-113.4, RADIO 19: FM 113.4-114.8, RADIO 20: FM 114.8-116.2, RADIO 21: FM 116.2-117.6, RADIO 22: FM 117.6-119.0, RADIO 23: FM 119.0-120.4, RADIO 24: FM 120.4-121.8, RADIO 25: FM 121.8-123.2, RADIO 26: FM 123.2-124.6, RADIO 27: FM 124.6-126.0, RADIO 28: FM 126.0-127.4, RADIO 29: FM 127.4-128.8, RADIO 30: FM 128.8-130.2, RADIO 31: FM 130.2-131.6, RADIO 32: FM 131.6-133.0, RADIO 33: FM 133.0-134.4, RADIO 34: FM 134.4-135.8, RADIO 35: FM 135.8-137.2, RADIO 36: FM 137.2-138.6, RADIO 37: FM 138.6-140.0, RADIO 38: FM 140.0-141.4, RADIO 39: FM 141.4-142.8, RADIO 40: FM 142.8-144.2, RADIO 41: FM 144.2-145.6, RADIO 42: FM 145.6-147.0, RADIO 43: FM 147.0-148.4, RADIO 44: FM 148.4-149.8, RADIO 45: FM 149.8-151.2, RADIO 46: FM 151.2-152.6, RADIO 47: FM 152.6-154.0, RADIO 48: FM 154.0-155.4, RADIO 49: FM 155.4-156.8, RADIO 50: FM 156.8-158.2, RADIO 51: FM 158.2-159.6, RADIO 52: FM 159.6-161.0, RADIO 53: FM 161.0-162.4, RADIO 54: FM 162.4-163.8, RADIO 55: FM 163.8-165.2, RADIO 56: FM 165.2-166.6, RADIO 57: FM 166.6-168.0, RADIO 58: FM 168.0-169.4, RADIO 59: FM 169.4-170.8, RADIO 60: FM 170.8-172.2, RADIO 61: FM 172.2-173.6, RADIO 62: FM 173.6-175.0, RADIO 63: FM 175.0-176.4, RADIO 64: FM 176.4-177.8, RADIO 65: FM 177.8-179.2, RADIO 66: FM 179.2-180.6, RADIO 67: FM 180.6-182.0, RADIO 68: FM 182.0-183.4, RADIO 69: FM 183.4-184.8, RADIO 70: FM 184.8-186.2, RADIO 71: FM 186.2-187.6, RADIO 72: FM 187.6-189.0, RADIO 73: FM 189.0-190.4, RADIO 74: FM 190.4-191.8, RADIO 75: FM 191.8-193.2, RADIO 76: FM 193.2-194.6, RADIO 77: FM 194.6-196.0, RADIO 78: FM 196.0-197.4, RADIO 79: FM 197.4-198.8, RADIO 80: FM 198.8-200.2, RADIO 81: FM 200.2-201.6, RADIO 82: FM 201.6-203.0, RADIO 83: FM 203.0-204.4, RADIO 84: FM 204.4-205.8, RADIO 85: FM 205.8-207.2, RADIO 86: FM 207.2-208.6, RADIO 87: FM 208.6-210.0, RADIO 88: FM 210.0-211.4, RADIO 89: FM 211.4-212.8, RADIO 90: FM 212.8-214.2, RADIO 91: FM 214.2-215.6, RADIO 92: FM 215.6-217.0, RADIO 93: FM 217.0-218.4, RADIO 94: FM 218.4-219.8, RADIO 95: FM 219.8-221.2, RADIO 96: FM 221.2-222.6, RADIO 97: FM 222.6-224.0, RADIO 98: FM 224.0-225.4, RADIO 99: FM 225.4-226.8, RADIO 100: FM 226.8-228.2, RADIO 101: FM 228.2-229.6, RADIO 102: FM 229.6-231.0, RADIO 103: FM 231.0-232.4, RADIO 104: FM 232.4-233.8, RADIO 105: FM 233.8-235.2, RADIO 106: FM 235.2-236.6, RADIO 107: FM 236.6-238.0, RADIO 108: FM 238.0-239.4, RADIO 109: FM 239.4-240.8, RADIO 110: FM 240.8-242.2, RADIO 111: FM 242.2-243.6, RADIO 112: FM 243.6-245.0, RADIO 113: FM 245.0-246.4, RADIO 114: FM 246.4-247.8, RADIO 115: FM 247.8-249.2, RADIO 116: FM 249.2-250.6, RADIO 117: FM 250.6-252.0, RADIO 118: FM 252.0-253.4, RADIO 119: FM 253.4-254.8, RADIO 120: FM 254.8-256.2, RADIO 121: FM 256.2-257.6, RADIO 122: FM 257.6-259.0, RADIO 123: FM 259.0-260.4, RADIO 124: FM 260.4-261.8, RADIO 125: FM 261.8-263.2, RADIO 126: FM 263.2-264.6, RADIO 127: FM 264.6-266.0, RADIO 128: FM 266.0-267.4, RADIO 129: FM 267.4-268.8, RADIO 130: FM 268.8-270.2, RADIO 131: FM 270.2-271.6, RADIO 132: FM 271.6-273.0, RADIO 133: FM 273.0-274.4, RADIO 134: FM 274.4-275.8, RADIO 135: FM 275.8-277.2, RADIO 136: FM 277.2-278.6, RADIO 137: FM 278.6-280.0, RADIO 138: FM 280.0-281.4, RADIO 139: FM 281.4-282.8, RADIO 140: FM 282.8-284.2, RADIO 141: FM 284.2-285.6, RADIO 142: FM 285.6-287.0, RADIO 143: FM 287.0-288.4, RADIO 144: FM 288.4-289.8, RADIO 145: FM 289.8-291.2, RADIO 146: FM 291.2-292.6, RADIO 147: FM 292.6-294.0, RADIO 148: FM 294.0-295.4, RADIO 149: FM 295.4-296.8, RADIO 150: FM 296.8-298.2, RADIO 151: FM 298.2-299.6, RADIO 152: FM 299.6-301.0, RADIO 153: FM 301.0-302.4, RADIO 154: FM 302.4-303.8, RADIO 155: FM 303.8-305.2, RADIO 156: FM 305.2-306.6, RADIO 157: FM 306.6-308.0, RADIO 158: FM 308.0-309.4, RADIO 159: FM 309.4-310.8, RADIO 160: FM 310.8-312.2, RADIO 161: FM 312.2-313.6, RADIO 162: FM 313.6-315.0, RADIO 163: FM 315.0-316.4, RADIO 164: FM 316.4-317.8, RADIO 165: FM 317.8-319.2, RADIO 166: FM 319.2-320.6, RADIO 167: FM 320.6-322.0, RADIO 168: FM 322.0-323.4, RADIO 169: FM 323.4-324.8, RADIO 170: FM 324.8-326.2, RADIO 171: FM 326.2-327.6, RADIO 172: FM 327.6-329.0, RADIO 173: FM 329.0-330.4, RADIO 174: FM 330.4-331.8, RADIO 175: FM 331.8-333.2, RADIO 176: FM 333.2-334.6, RADIO 177: FM 334.6-336.0, RADIO 178: FM 336.0-337.4, RADIO 179: FM 337.4-338.8, RADIO 180: FM 338.8-340.2, RADIO 181: FM 340.2-341.6, RADIO 182: FM 341.6-343.0, RADIO 183: FM 343.0-344.4, RADIO 184: FM 344.4-345.8, RADIO 185: FM 345.8-347.2, RADIO 186: FM 347.2-348.6, RADIO 187: FM 348.6-350.0, RADIO 188: FM 350.0-351.4, RADIO 189: FM 351.4-35



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**commander in Bo  
disillusioned with the**

**T**he main telephone number for the United Nations in New York, dialed from the UK, is 001 712 963 1234. But don't bother. What happens when you ring is that a recorded voice tells you, in two languages, that you have a touch-tone system. If you have a touch-tone phone, press 2 now." Another voice says: "Transferring you."

What the voice transfers you to is the recorded message saying that the UN now has a touch-tone system. And so on... In 15 minutes of this nonsense, I never spoke to anyone. That may not matter much when the caller is me, but what happens when the UN commander

needing urgent aid because 25 of his troops have been taken hostage by the Bosnian army? The call from Major General Leslie Mackenzie came at night, as the UN transferred him to the home of an official.

The following conversation ensued, Mackenzie: "I am General Mackenzie." Official: "What mission are you with?" Mackenzie:

force in former Yugoslavia. Official: "What currency is that?"  
 Macekovic: "Former Yugoslav." Official: "Where are you?"  
 Macekovic: "Sarajevo." Official: "What do you do?"  
 Macekovic was about to say that he was "the bloody commander" but instead decided to hang in.

The blatant incompetence of the UN headquarters is at times

**DRAMA: Rose wild** If the idea gone hopelessly wrong and the point is graphically made by MacKenzie in *A Soldier's Peace*, a two-part documentary for BBC 2 which

Few people nowadays have any experience of dealing with domestic servants or of being one. Watching *Upstairs Downstairs* is the closest most of us have come to it, but the rules have not so much changed since then as completely disappeared.

Tears Before Bedtime, a new, four-part drama series beginning on BBC1 tomorrow, Sunday finds

Nanny dramas have traditionally focused on mothers' paranoia. Is this new nanny a closet psychopath bent on stealing the children, or husband, or both? *Years Before the Redline* is more down to earth. Both sides in the battle are repore

ably peripheral role. The questions are, how do you share your precious time with employees who are not confined in the comfortable distance of servants' quarters, and how can you stand a job where you

**The Times January 7 1995**

# United but also at cr

**Major General Lewis Mackenzie, who was a United Nations' commander in Bosnia, tells Peter Barnard how he became disillusioned with the organisation's role in the former Yugoslavia**

In the main telephone number from New York called by the UN, it is 001 212 683 1234.

But don't bother. What happens when you ring is that a recorded voice tells you, in two languages, that the UN now has a touch-tone system. "If you have a touch-tone phone, press 2 now." Another voice says: "Transferring you."

What the voice transfers you to is the recorded message saying that the UN now has a touch-tone system. And so on... In 15 minutes of this nonsense, I never spoke to anyone; The may not matter much when the caller is me, but what happens when the UN commander in former Yugoslaviana rings up, needing urgent advice because 25 of his troops have been taken hostage by the Bosnian army? The call from Major-General Lewis Mackenzie came at night, as the UN transferred him to the home of an official.

The following conversation ensued. Mackenzie said: "When General MacKenzie calls, will there please be someone with Mr MacKenzie?" [The UN projection force in former Yugoslaviana, Officially: "What country is that?" Mr MacKenzie: "Former Yugoslaviana," Officially: "Where are your?" MacKenzie: "Sarajevo." Officially: "What do you deal?" Mackenzie was about to say that he was "the bloody commander" but instead decided to hang up.]

The blighted incompetence of the UN headquarters is of course nearly legendary. The UN is a good idea gone hopelessly wrong and the point is graphically made by Mackenzie in A Soldier's Peace, a two-part documentary for BBC 2 which,

began tonight, Saturday.

There is much to learn from these programmes about the realities of highly-respected (and outspoken) peacekeepers who have spent time in Somalia as well as Bosnia. The command in Bosnia was controversial and - there was a feeling in Canada and elsewhere that he had more sympathy for the Serbs than did Western governments, including his own.

While Mackenzie was in former Yugoslavia during 1992, Bosnian propagandists told his wife was Serbian (she is Scottish and when a group of schoolgirls came forward to present him to Mackenzie, out of gratitude for what he had done, the Bosnian propaganda machine used photographs of Mrs Mackenzie to suggest she was pro-Serbian).

Mackenzie retired, he made no secret of a desire for a political role but political parties in Canada took the view that, though Mackenzie was a national hero, he might not be first in line when it came to party unity.

The same narrow tendency has been apparent in General Sir Michael Rose, the British UN commander in former Yugoslavia. It seems likely that Rose's view of the UN would not be a million miles from that of Mackenzie, one believes that the UN has serious command and control problems. Mackenzie has been in London,

this week to help promote the BBC films, but before he got his house in Edinburgh, near Toronto, he told me why he believed the UN needs to re-think its structure.

"The UN Charter is designed to deal with wars of aggression, all the organisational factors are design-relevant, but most conflict now is civil conflict, that needs a different type of involvement, so the UN must be able to handle them differently, I don't think it would make a great deal of intellectual horse-power to get things changed."

I think it probable that if situation like Bosnia needs a superpower, that would be the US, gathered about it some allies and threw up to the UN to get the big act of legality. Like the Gulf? Yes, like the Gulf?

The Gulf:

Mac McKenzie is irritable stress that Unipolar has not been culture. It's 95 per cent successful. It is providing humanitarian relief to a million people a day, but in contact is another matter. If we can't solve the problem, we're back to the UN. The UN staff are OK. One they would have seen, the other wouldn't have seen."

The other world of course has been Serbia, which brings us back to Mackenzie's alleged bias. As I have said, it is that the conflict is 66 per cent the fault of Serbia and the rest of the blame is spread between Bosnia and Croatia.

Serbs come up to me in the street every day in Toronto and bug me, they threaten to kill me, I've heard they were looking for my side. It's shameful isn't it? I hold a congressional committee in Washington that the conflict was the having three serbian killers, one had killed 15 Jewish men, one had killed ten Croatian and the third had killed five Bosnians. Nobody is blameless."

Few people nowadays have any experience of dealing with domestic servants or of being one. Nothing provides a better illustration of this than the way such changes place them as completely disoriented.

Tears Before Bedtime, a new four-part drama series beginning on BBC 1 tomorrow Sunday, finds a rich seam of black comedy in the post-industrial reconstructed history and the new servant class, that is, the working parents of the 1990s and their nannies.

Nanny dramas have traditionally focused on mothers paranoiacal. Is this new nanny a closet psychopath, bent on stealing the children, or husband, or both? Tears Before Bedtime is more down to earth. Both sides in the battle are represented, and children have an admirably peripheral role. The questions arise, how do you share your precious hours with employees who are not confined in the comforting distance of servants' quarters, and how can you stand a job where you

have to live not over but within the story, and find sleep is sometimes precarious ground?

The producers of the programme suggested a rather subtle theme: how many rights claimholders and they may be right. Contemporary of the arts see column in *The Lady Knows*.

*Tears Before Bedtime starts tomorrow, Sunday, BBC 1, 9.40pm.*

how far parents humiliate themselves to make their efforts at servitude sound appealing. "Thesefair houses," adorable "Thomas and Olives," sunny rooms and of course, "no pet". Sarah Baylis played by Samantha Bond), and her husband David (Adrian Rawlins), have graduated from trying to patch other peoples nanies to putting themselves in the hands of the all-powerful nanny agency. Even this is no guarantee of success, and after the first nanny leaves with many badly words, a

## Drama: Rose wild finds a series about nannies uncomfortably realistic

### Just who is in charge here?

fearful Sarah finds herself greeted by interferences with the speediest delivery of money, you think, it can be ugly and damaging, my husband and I expressed grave, and the best handkerchief by the nanny agency?!"

The producer of the series, fit th Bannerman, explains that it is th does not refer to boisterous childhood, but to the sticky north London crowd of their lives that can't even run their own homes.

To the back of nannies who prove through the series, information power. They convene to compare notes on their bosses' sexual preferences and intelligences. The nervous suspicions of many parents will be confirmed as these dominant figures paw through drawers, try computer jewellery and hack into computers to scrutinise household accounts!

As the domestic life of challenging class the series must have had limited appeal, but promises to deliver more, as games become serious and families begin to unravel.

TELEVISION 5

cross-purposes

Major General Lewis MacKenzie (right) during his time as commander of Unprotec in Bosnia

Try missing this ad.

Make a dash for the loo.

Make a cuppa.

Make a phone call.

Make love.

Unlike a TV commercial, this press ad will still be here when you get back.



# When we were contenders

Louise Taylor previews a Radio 5 series which recalls FA Cup matches in which football's form-book was briefly rewritten

**M**ilton Graham was cleaning a sofa in a North London suburb when he was asked to write a book about the FA Cup. The book, which is now published by Bantam, is a collection of stories about the cup's history, its winners and its losers. It is a book that is well worth reading, not least for the sheer pleasure of the writing. Graham's book is a collection of stories about the cup's history, its winners and its losers. It is a book that is well worth reading, not least for the sheer pleasure of the writing.

**Giant Killers** starts on Monday on Radio 5.7.35pm. The book is a collection of stories about the cup's history, its winners and its losers. It is a book that is well worth reading, not least for the sheer pleasure of the writing.

Just hours after absorbing the crowd's applause and being interviewed by BBC television Graham was back in the club. "Sorry, you can't come in," he said. "I'm a bit busy."

Produced and presented by Peter Slater, *Giant Killers* occupies what has become the Radio 5 slot that night's *Match of the Day*. It is a book that is well worth reading, not least for the sheer pleasure of the writing.

SOCIETY: Nigel Hawkes on strange byways of human desire

## Responding to all the wrong signals

**K**inky is as kinky does, but some particular sexual tastes pass over an invisible line into psychosis. Those who suffer have a personal problem so desperate they cannot even discuss it until they end up in hospital or in court. The unlikely ones never get even that chance, ending their lives in the morgue.

In *Beyond Love*, a programme quite rightly scheduled late at night, my advice is that it is quite unsuitable for children, or those of a queasy disposition. Channel 4's *Equinox* Special gives examples of those suffering from these conditions. But the real interest lies in how exactly the sexual drive becomes so misplaced.



Barrie Williams, the manager of Sutton T.C., victorious in 1989

thought in the autumn of his career. Wrexham's Mickey Thomas commanded back page attention the next day but soon found himself attracting front page headlines. Large-scale self-destruction involving a tangled love life and trouble with the police provided a testimony to one footballer's habit of coping with the after-effects of stardom. Sportingly, Thomas agreed to an interview, the provision emphasising the programme's high human interest content.

Avoiding the trap of turning into a truth-spinner, every line by minimal use of statistics and maximum use of anecdotal evidence, *Giant Killers* should appeal to a broad audience. And even if football bores you, the music is good.

## OFF THE BOX

### Square deal for Ted

**COMEDIANS** who warm up studio audiences before the cameras roll and during the breaks don't make it on to the shows themselves, is a rule. But Ted Kalligh, the country's busiest audience-warmer, is working for shows on Channel 4. He is a comedian who has been on the air for 20 years. He is a comedian who has been on the air for 20 years.

**TO PUBLICISE** their three-month long "Giant Killers" season, which started this week, the Discovery Channel sent out promotional tapes. 3-D glasses and 800-47-7200 series. It's about new devices to spot dodgy objects in the post.

### Winners

**HOSTS** for the (next) pop music event of the year, the Brit Awards, to be held on February 20 and edited for a 90-minute show to be screened on TV, the next night, look set to be Ching, partnered by the Chris Evans. Rules have been changed this year to allow American bands to be eligible for British category awards, if 50 per cent of members are British. So the Brand New Heavies and the Pretenders could be nominated. Eric Clapton, who will be embarking on his annual residency at the Albert Hall around about the time of the awards, is fancied as a solo winner. Two former soap stars, Michelle Gayle and Kylie Minogue, are tipped as strong contenders for the best female soloist award. In the "British and Irish" section, at the moment, Tina Turner, Madonna and Cyndi Lauper are surely the front-runners among the "international" category.

HILARY KINGSLY

## FRIDAY JANUARY 13

CHOICE: rural pursuits past and present; a job few people would relish; sharp stand-up comedy

## Everybody can have roses round the door

**A** delightful six-part series from the host of *Gardeners' World*, Geoff Hamilton's *Country Men* (BBC 2, 8.30pm) seeks to demonstrate that it is possible to bring a touch of the country to a garden at modern cost. Hamilton's approach is to take a garden, party garden, and garden, and show how to make it into a garden. He is a man who has been on the air for 20 years. He is a man who has been on the air for 20 years.

From the team that gave us *Country Men*, comes *Country Men* (BBC 2, 8.30pm). It is a series that is well worth watching, not least for the sheer pleasure of the writing.

1.00 *One O'Clock News* (BBC 1)

1.30 *Neighbours* (BBC 1)

2.15 *Hollyoaks* (BBC 1)

2.30 *Blue Peter* (BBC 1)

3.00 *Breakfast News* (BBC 1)

3.30 *Conquering Passions* (BBC 1)

4.00 *Country Men* (BBC 2)

4.30 *Country Men* (BBC 2)

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3.00 *Country Men* (BBC 2)

1.00 *Weather* (BBC 1)



Geoff Hamilton in one of his *Country Men* (BBC 1)

### CARTONLAW

6.00 *GMTV* Early morning news and entertainment (BBC 1)

6.30 *Chin Latters* Word games presented by Ted Robbins (BBC 1)

7.00 *The Time ... The Place* Topical discussion series chaired by John Stebbins (BBC 1)

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1.00 *Weather* (BBC 1)

### CHANNEL 4

6.35 *Once Upon A Time* — Life, Animated series exploring the human body (BBC 1)

7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (BBC 1)

9.30 *Shard* (BBC 1)

9.45 *Shard* (BBC 1)

9.55 *Shard* (BBC 1)

10.00 *The Time ... The Place* Topical discussion series chaired by John Stebbins (BBC 1)

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1.00 *Weather* (BBC 1)











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## JANUARY 13

He simply never forgot, that Steven Spielberg, the most successful moviemaker in the history of the world, loves films with a rare and special intimacy. To make *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* (7/19, Sunday, 6-6:30pm) he went into partnership with Walter Disney with the intention of celebrating the art of American animation as it never had been before, while meant negotiating rights for virtually every screen cartoon character. When it was released, Spielberg's director, Robert Zemeckis, told me: "Now I know why so few good animation films are made; it's just too hard."

*Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* (the title, a statement promising an answer, rather than a question) uses two admirable but disoriental genres of Hollywood's golden age, the tough private-eye film noir of the 1940s, and classical animation when masters such as Chuck Jones, Tex Avery and Bill Redden competed with Disney's own glibness. Combining them into one new genre may have seemed like a long shot. Gene Kelly's dances with the MGM mouse in *Mickey Mouse Revue* were never attempted before so ambitiously. The genius behind the animation in *Roger Rabbit* was Richard Williams. A creature living in London since the 1950s, and most of the film was shot at Disney.

The time is 1947, Bob Hoskins plays a boozy Los Angeles private detective in the Marlowe tradition. He is plagued by the Toons, the undisputed cartoon inhabitants of Hollywood's Toontown, and is vehemently enthusiastic when the studio boss hires him to find Jessica, the voluptuous wife of his pining star Roger Rabbit, suspected of having an affair with a novelty manufacturer (Stubby Kaye). The cartoon Jessica is a sultry combination of Rita Hayworth, Ava Gardner and Marilyn Turner (she tells the bemused sleuth, "I'm just down the hall way...").

The in-joke becomes a *Chindownload*: a plot in which greedy tycoons aim to rip up the city's efficient, modest system, replacing them with a freewheel network (as if such a thing could ever happen). When Keyse is murdered, Roger is the prime suspect, pursued by the Rightful, Tooth-nahdy Judge Dooom (Christopher Lloyd) who guards a bubbling vat of turpentine, acetone and benzene called "The Dip," the only way to kill them.

Literally hundreds of Toons pop up from Mickey Mouse and Bugs Bunny to Betty Boop (seen in black and white with Mae Questel, her original voice, dubbing her), a duet on two pianos between the great duets, Donald and Daffy, is a joy. There are also fresh cartoon creations, the cigar-chomping, gravel-voiced Interstard Band Herman and Roger Kaddish himself, voiced by Charles Hallahan.

What makes the interweaving of cartoons and live action so satisfying is the solid modelling of the Toons, who look rounded and cast shadows on the set. If they sit, the chair seat compresses and puffs out dust. If they trip, the rug crumples up convincingly. Hostos acts believably with them, an astounded teen smother on the set, the hard to play opposite thin air, the figures being added much later.

room around the picture as a self-conscious star but integrated him into the other key components of the film also succeeds because Sigel knows when to move his suspense and when to let his characters and top gear, and when to relax, and when to let his tale of a mixed-race family with Elvis as the half-crested son) has a keen edge throughout. When white settlers and Indians begin to bleed, Davis faces the agony of

which race was taken from reality, the text has been reinforced by Kershner's *M\*A\*S\*H* creator.

■ **Wasted in Moscow** (1963, Channel 4, 215min, 135 mins). Based on the experiences of American ambassador Joseph E. Davies in the Soviet Union between 1936 and 1938, this highly-slammed view of the Soviets insists that they want war best, ally in eliminating the Nazis and that Stalin himself is a safe, decent sort. Davies meets President Kalinin, tours the Soviet Union and is neither shaken nor stirred by the notorious purges that, during the McCarthy witch-hunts, some years later, the producer Jack Warner, ruled the day he agreed to make it his scriptwriter, Howard Koch, was brought in for questioning. Walter Huston, in the role of Davies (who appears in a preface to the film), is a towering match for the ideas on offer, all of which are attractively misanthropic by director Michael Curtiz.

■ **Not the sensitive performance** that has real emotional clout for Mary Stuart, Macdonald was so much more fragile. Joan, who is loved only by her painting, Anna O'Leary is barely the funniest person but overpowers the first half of Johnny. Deep is Sam, the unendingly well-oiled who unendingly well-oiled who as Sam fails to live and acts as minder if Joan, with whom he soon falls in love. Sam finds a purpose, Joan finds a reassuring inner glow. The result is happiness for ever. The film works best when achieving delicate balance between whimsy and evocative psychological (if not comic) routines and beautiful, almost fooling are employed as a antidote to the cynicism and has a limited look of real life. Just a row confines out painting as the single source of meaning, so Sarsgaard and Chappin, as statues which he acts out, Deep is extremely wide-ranging actor, never just an empty show.

□ *Chameleon 8* (1942, The Motion Picture Company, 140 mins.) Not mainly when a film is set for release in Britain and then quickly put back in its can, it means it was not good. In this case, it was not. Interestingly, however, it was not a consequence of the war, but of the fact that many a hitherto above-average, popular, and profitable film was physiologically livelier than goes to the screen, and other succeds. Directed by Bruce Robinson, responsible for *Withnail & I*, this is about a jaded cop (Andy Garcia), transferred to Los Angeles, instructed to follow Northern Californians to follow Northern Californians where two pretty murders away from him, with Uma Thurman both possible new victim and key to D killer's activities. Both actors convincingly embrace a sense of shyness, yet Robinson's decision to turn Garcia into a possible victim stretches plausibility.

□ *Planning Star* (1960, BBC, 124 mins, 90 mins). Next and no film, with *Jailhouse Rock* as Evans is director Don Siegel has not let Evans

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The satire becomes a *Chinatown*-ish plot in which greedy tycoons aim to rip up the city's efficient fireproof system, only to have it replaced by a feeble network (as if such a thing could ever happen). The film is punctuated, Roger is the prince suspected, and the final scene is a parody of Judge Doom (Christopher Lloyd) who ends by killing the good-looking Judge Good (Christopher Lloyd).

91 mins). Though deflating a familiar tale of youth fighting class, *Mean Streets* is a well-represented, adult and bull-by-repressed, this Australian gem is stacked with so much lively inspiration that the notion of a stubborn couple winning a ardently controlled dance competition is almost devoid of cliché. Paul Mercurio and Tara Morice play even extravagant heterosexuals with a properly striking face, while the film, despite making it so, is not the least bit dance film; it is an artful, stylish, intellectual gem.

1442z. *Movie*, from 1491 mins). The director, Ridley Scott, saw off the Columbus anniversary opposition with this internal and literal journey of the great man. General

1. *The Long Love Story* (Home (C) Channel 4, 9.50pm, 115 mins). See *Pick of the Week*, page 7.

2. *The Court-Martial of Billy Mitchell* (BBC 2, 10.50pm, 91 mins). Director Otto Preminger remains superbly subdued since the events themselves are chilly and dramatic enough, including a courtroom scene of some foreboding grandeur, easily outbids the prewar stinkiness of *Concussion* (Billy Mitchell's win, in 1925, outbids the American military establishment's attack on America's court-martial, Mitchell) and the case of a Japanese attack on American ships, in 1916, successfully bombs, and, in 1918, successfully bombs, a formerly unbearable (German) battleship. His resistance on the water as the weapon of the future

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One should never forget that Steven Spielberg, the most successful filmmaker in the history of the new Hollywood, films with a rare and special intensity. In *Back to the Future*, with Roger Rabbit (July, Sunday, 6:55pm), he went into partnership with Walt Disney with the intention of celebrating the art of American

**WEDNESDAY**

**JANUARY 11**

□ **The Wind Cannot Read** (1998, RNCZ, 12:25am, 110 mins). During the Second World War, R&F officer Dirk Bogarde secretly marries his Japanese language teacher (Yoko Tani) and subsequently is captured by the Japanese in Burma. Bogarde is heroic and convincingly unsentimental. **Katji, Thomas directs.**

□ **Stridely** (1992, The

□ **Jack, 1988, RNCZ, 12:25am, 110 mins)**, based on an Emile Zola novel, and, appropriately, violent and dark-sided, this flamboyant Ben Kingsley as director and lead character, a former convict (unlike Florida drug-smuggling candidate Ned Flanders, George Segal and Charles Durning are also involved).

**THURSDAY**

**JANUARY 12**

On *Damon and Daughter*, 90 minutes, *Sky Movies*, 12pm, 90 minutes, Charles Dutton, so typically gleeful that, were he to break out in smiles, you'd think another actor had replaced him on set, is suitably, unsurprisingly cast, as a cop on the trail of a nasty, slick, pincey thrill-kidnapper. He's got the same old-fashioned this serial-kill suspense-race with the single original spin provided by the notion of dad-and-daughter cops. In the inescapable habit of american buddy-cop films, the two partners initially snarl at being in the same car, but Dutton and Dana Delany do fill out

**FANTASY OF THE WEEK**

**Tribute to toons**





















# Write centenarian

**BBC / ITV 15**

**Norma Archer, who works for the National Trust (BBC 1)**

rock group Therapy? (f) (e)  
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